

IN THE MATTER OF:

THE ESTATE OF JAMES BROWN a/k/a JAMES JOSEPH BROWN

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DEPOSITION OF DEANNA BROWN THOMAS

TAKEN ON OCTOBER 31, 2007

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Deposition of Deanna Brown Thomas - October 31 2007

SHEET 1 PAGE 1

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF AIKEN)

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
JAMES BROWN a/k/a)
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO. 2007-CF-02-0122

DEPOSITION OF DEANNA BROWN THOMAS

Taken By Counsel For Terry, Forlando and Romunzo Brown
Before Gina L. Smith, Certified Court Reporter
At the Law Offices of Bell & Bell Associates
619 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia
On October 31st, 2007, Commencing at 9:20 a.m.

|||||

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505 Courthouse Lane
Augusta, Georgia 30901
(706) 722-3746
1-800-592-3376 (Depo)

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PEARANCES OF COUNSEL, CONTINUED

For the Beneficiaries
Under the Will and
Irrevocable Trust:

Ms. Grace E. Lewis
Office of the Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Also Present:

Mr. Shawn Thomas
Mr. Forlando Brown
Mr. Terry Brown
Ms. Velma Brown Whitley
Mr. David Cannon
Mr. Albert H. Dallas
Mr. Alford Bradley
Ms. Adele Pope, Esq.
Mr. Robert L. Buchanan, Jr., Esq

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PEARANCES OF COUNSEL

For Mr. Forlando Brown
Mr. Romunzo Brown,
Mr. Terry Brown:

and

Mr. David B. Bell
Bell & Bell Associates
619 Greene Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Mr. Ronnie Maxwell
Maxwell Law Firm
225 Chesterfield Street NW
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

For Deanna Brown Thomas
and other named parties:

Mr. Louis Levenson
Mr. Dylan Littlejohn
Levenson and Associates
125 Broad Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

For the Estate of
James Brown:

Mr. W. Jonathan Harling
Lewis & Babcock
1513 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

For Mr. Albert H. Dallas
and Mr. Al Bradley:

Mr. Stanley G. Jackson
Jackson Law Offices
1830 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30904

For Mr. David Cannon
Via Telephone:

Mr. Ronald L. Richter, Jr.
Bland Richter
Peoples Building
Mezzanine Level
18 Broad Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

For Tomi Rae Brown
Via Telephone:

Mr. Robert N. Rosen
Rosen Law Firm
The Peoples Building
18 Broad Street
Suite 201
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

For minor James Brown, Jr.
Appointed Guardian
Via Telephone:

Mr. Stephen M. Slotchiver
Slotchiver & Slotchiver
44 State Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

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POSITION OF

DEANNA BROWN THOMAS

[Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-11-28(d), Augusta West Reporting has no contract with any of the parties or their counsel. The court reporter's charges are the usual and customary charges for services within the industry and are available upon request by either party, with no financial or services discount being given to any party named in this litigation.]

[Ms. Pope and Mr. Buchanan are not present at the commencement of the deposition.]

MR. BELL: This is the deposition of Deanna Brown Thomas taken pursuant to notice, taken for all purposes allowed by the South Carolina Civil Practice Act. The--I think it would be helpful to the court reporter if we went around the room and everybody identified themselves by name and their relationship to the case. And also, the gentlemen on the speaker phone, it would be helpful if we--if you identify yourself and each time you choose to speak or ask a question, if you will introduce your words by identifying yourself by name. It will help the court reporter. Is that agreeable?

MR. RICHTER: That is. This is Ronnie Richter.

MR. ROSEN: This is Robert Rosen. That's fine.

MR. SLOCHIVER: Steve Slochiver. That's fine.

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MR. BELL: And if y'all--if Robert and Ronnie will start off and identify themselves and then we'll go around the room to Stan and then clockwise.

MR. ROSEN: Robert Rosen and I'm representing Tomi Rae Brown.

MR. RICHTER: Ronnie Richter representing David Cannon.

MR. JACKSON: Stan Jackson representing Al Bradley and Buddy Dallas.

MR. CANNON: David Cannon here with my attorney, Ronnie Richter.

MR. THOMAS: Shawn Thomas with my wife Deanna Brown Thomas.

MR. BELL: Well, she's going to have to identify herself. And we'll go to the outside and then we'll come to the table.

MR. DALLAS: Albert H. Dallas here with my attorney Stan Jackson.

MR. HARLING: Jonathan Harling. I represent the estate of James Brown.

MR. LITTLEJOHN: Dylan Littlejohn. I'm with Levenson and Associates.

MR. BRADLEY: Al Bradley, P.R., here with my attorney Stan Jackson.

MR. MAXWELL: Ronnie Maxwell along with David Bell

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representing Forlando, Romunzo and Terry Brown.

MR. FORLANDO BROWN: Forlando Brown represented by David Bell.

MR. TERRY BROWN: Terry Brown represented by David Bell.

MS. VELMA BROWN WHITLEY: Velma Brown Whitley, Forlando's grandmother.

MS. LEWIS: Grace Lewis with the Georgia Attorney General's office representing the charitable beneficiaries under the will and the irrevocable trust.

MR. LEVENSON: I'm Louis Levenson. I represent Deanna and other named parties in the action.

MS. THOMAS: Deanna Brown Thomas.

MR. BELL: And I'm David Bell. I represent Forlando Brown, Romunzo Brown and Terry Brown. Are the stipulations agreeable?

MR. LEVENSON: Yes, sir.

DEANNA BROWN THOMAS,

Having Been First Duly Sworn, was Examined and Testifies as Follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. BELL:

Q. If you'd be kind enough to tell me your name, please.

A. Deanna Brown Thomas.

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Q. Ms. Thomas, I usually start off a deposition with just some identifying information. Tell me where you live.

A. 3131 Silver Bluff Road, Aiken, South Carolina, 29803.

Q. Aiken, South Carolina. And how long have you lived there?

A. Nine years.

Q. Where did you live before that?

A. Augusta, Georgia.

Q. And what was the address in Augusta?

A. 7 Lake Forest Court.

Q. How long did you live on Lake Forest Court?

A. About three years.

Q. And where before that?

A. Atlanta, Georgia.

Q. Where in Atlanta?

A. Buckhead. I don't remember my address.

Q. Who did you live with in Buckhead?

A. My sister Yamma.

Q. Anyone else?

A. My son Jason.

Q. Anyone else?

A. In Atlanta?

Q. Yes, ma'am.

A. No.

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<p>SHEET 3 PAGE 9</p> <p>1 Q. And how old is your son Joseph?</p> <p>2 A. 17. Jason is 17.</p> <p>3 Q. He's Jason?</p> <p>4 A. Jason.</p> <p>5 Q. I'm sorry. I thought I heard Joseph. I'm sorry.</p> <p>6 And--</p> <p>7 MR. RICHTER: Pardon the interruption. This is</p> <p>8 Ronnie Richter. I don't want the conference to become</p> <p>9 an inconvenience but is it possible to get the witness</p> <p>10 to speak up a little bit or to get the speaker phone</p> <p>11 closer to the witness?</p> <p>12 MR. ROSEN: Yeah. We really cannot hear her.</p> <p>13 MR. BELL: The phone doesn't reach as far as we</p> <p>14 would like and that's part of our problem.</p> <p>15 MS. LEWIS: Why don't you switch places.</p> <p>16 MR. DALLAS: Should we just shift the table down?</p> <p>17 MR. BELL: We will move the table down. We have</p> <p>18 moved closer to you.</p> <p>19 MR. RICHTER: Thank you.</p> <p>20 Q. {Mr. Bell} Where is Lake Forest Court?</p> <p>21 A. In west Augusta.</p> <p>22 Q. Where in west Augusta? Of Lake Forest Drive?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Right up by the lake?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>	<p>PAGE 11</p> <p>1 Q. How long have you worked for Air Personality?</p> <p>2 A. I've been--</p> <p>3 Q. I mean how long have you been--how long have you</p> <p>4 worked for Radio One?</p> <p>5 A. Three and a half years.</p> <p>6 Q. Any other employment?</p> <p>7 A. Now?</p> <p>8 Q. Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>9 A. No. I'm not employed, no.</p> <p>10 Q. And where does your husband work?</p> <p>11 A. He works for Global Employment, Global--</p> <p>12 Q. And what is that?</p> <p>13 A. It's a company that does the human resource</p> <p>14 forces--human resources for Deanna Incorporated.</p> <p>15 Q. And Deanna Incorporated is--is that you?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, that's me.</p> <p>17 Q. Tell me about Deanna Incorporated.</p> <p>18 A. That's a company my dad and I formed years ago.</p> <p>19 Q. And what does Deanna Incorporated--what's its</p> <p>20 purpose?</p> <p>21 A. We own a transportation company and a furniture</p> <p>22 store.</p> <p>23 Q. Where is the furniture store?</p> <p>24 A. In Clearwater, South Carolina.</p> <p>25 Q. What's the address?</p>
<p>PAGE 10</p> <p>1 Q. Is it a cul-de-sac?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know about a cul-de-sac but it's--no, no,</p> <p>3 no. No, no, no, no, no. No, not that far up. Across from</p> <p>4 the school. What is it now?</p> <p>5 Q. Lake Forest Hills?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Five or six houses in there?</p> <p>8 A. It was actually a townhome--</p> <p>9 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>10 A. --across the street from there.</p> <p>11 Q. And who did you live with on Lake Forest Court?</p> <p>12 A. I lived with my son.</p> <p>13 Q. Jason?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And then on Silver Bluff Road who do you live</p> <p>16 with?</p> <p>17 A. My husband Shawn and my son Jason.</p> <p>18 Q. Tell me about your employment.</p> <p>19 A. I work for Radio One.</p> <p>20 Q. Where is that located?</p> <p>21 A. North Augusta.</p> <p>22 Q. What are your duties with Radio One?</p> <p>23 A. Air personality.</p> <p>24 Q. Disc jockey on air?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>	<p>PAGE 12</p> <p>1 A. I don't know the exact address. It's on</p> <p>2 Aiken-Augusta Highway. I don't know the exact number.</p> <p>3 Q. What's the name of the furniture store?</p> <p>4 A. Value Furniture & Appliance.</p> <p>5 Q. Tell me what it's near.</p> <p>6 A. It's right next to Hill Auto Sales.</p> <p>7 Q. I'm leaving Augusta on the Aiken-Augusta Highway.</p> <p>8 A. Pass Taylor Toyota, go through the light, come on</p> <p>9 down at the bottom of the hill. It's right there on the</p> <p>10 right.</p> <p>11 Q. Past the lake?</p> <p>12 A. I didn't say a lake.</p> <p>13 Q. I'm sorry.</p> <p>14 A. I said Taylor Toyota.</p> <p>15 Q. Past Taylor Toyota going towards Aiken?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. Go through the light. It's at the bottom of</p> <p>17 the hill on the right.</p> <p>18 Q. Go through--under the Atomic Highway?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Across the Atomic Highway and then just past that?</p> <p>21 A. Go under the underpass. At the bottom of the</p> <p>22 hill--</p> <p>23 Q. On the right?</p> <p>24 A. --it's on the right.</p> <p>25 Q. And where's the transportation company?</p>

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1 A. Sandbar Ferry Road, Augusta, Georgia.
2 Q. And the name of it?
3 A. T&T Transportation.
4 Q. What's T&T stand for?
5 A. T&T really didn't stand for anything. We just
6 came up with that name since our last name was Thomas.
7 Q. Got it. Thomas & Thomas. Now, are you familiar
8 with the last will and testament of your father?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. When did you first become aware of that last will
11 and testament?
12 A. December 27th.
13 Q. Of '06?
14 A. '06.
15 Q. Were you aware that he had executed a will before
16 that?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And tell me about your just general awareness that
19 he had executed a will.
20 A. He had done a will.
21 Q. Did he--how did you learn that? Did he tell you
22 that or did someone else tell you?
23 A. Yes, he--he did let me know that he had a will.
24 Q. Tell me what he said to you about having a will.
25 A. He said that he had a will and that all of the

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1 children would be taken care of.
2 Q. Was--
3 A. And grandchildren would be taken care of.
4 Q. Was he in good, sound mind when he told you that?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Was there any incapacity on his ability to know
7 what his assets were and what he was doing?
8 A. I don't understand the question.
9 Q. Was he of good, sound mind?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. Was he capable of making business decisions?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. Was he--did he know who his family was?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Was he able to transact business?
16 A. In terms of--when you say able--
17 Q. Generally able to conduct his own business
18 affairs.
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. At all times up to his death?
21 A. To my knowledge, yes.
22 Q. Do you have any reason whatsoever to believe that
23 he was lacking in any mental capacity at any time prior to
24 his death?
25 A. Not to my knowledge.

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1 Q. Are you aware of anyone who has said that he was
2 lacking any mental capacity prior to his death?
3 A. No. Some people tried to call him crazy.
4 Q. Is that--was that just in a generic term or
5 specifically?
6 A. I guess they were upset at the time. Some people
7 have tried to call him crazy.
8 Q. Any particular people?
9 A. Just maybe people that maybe worked with him. You
10 know--
11 Q. Just--
12 A. --might be a little disgruntled employee.
13 Q. Typical conflicts of people that he might come in
14 contact with?
15 A. Uh-huh.
16 Q. It helps her if you say yes or no.
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Now, you said you then became aware of the will on
19 December the 27th, 2006.
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. Tell me about that, please.
22 A. Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon came to my home and
23 presented it to me.
24 Q. Did they give you a copy?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Do you still have that copy?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. Were you able to read it?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Do you understand that to have been the last will
6 and testament of your father?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Do you believe that your father had full capacity
9 when he executed that document?
10 A. I don't know when he executed it. I would assume
11 that he did, yes.
12 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that he did not
13 have full capacity when he executed his last will and
14 testament?
15 A. Not to my knowledge.
16 Q. Do you have any problem with the will?
17 A. Do I have any problem with the will.
18 Q. Yes.
19 A. No. I don't have a problem with the will, no.
20 Q. Do you--is it within your interest to follow your
21 father's wishes as are contained and written in the will?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Are you aware of the trust documents that go with
24 the will?
25 A. Yes.

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<p>SHEET 5 PAGE 17</p> <p>1 Q. The creation of the I Feel Good trust?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. When did you become aware of the--</p> <p>4 A. Same day as the will.</p> <p>5 Q. Were you given a copy of the trust documents?</p> <p>6 A. Actually, I knew about the trust but not in detail</p> <p>7 until December 27th. I had heard that there was a trust. I</p> <p>8 did not--I don't know if that was the trust that was</p> <p>9 presented to me on the 27th that I had heard about, but a</p> <p>10 trust--the trust, James Brown irrevocable trust--</p> <p>11 Q. Yes.</p> <p>12 A. --was presented to me on December 27th--</p> <p>13 Q. At the same time--</p> <p>14 A. --2006.</p> <p>15 Q. At the same time you saw a copy of the will?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Was your--prior to December 27th, 2006, was your</p> <p>18 general understanding of the trust similar to your</p> <p>19 understanding of the will?</p> <p>20 A. No. I didn't know--I didn't understand a lot</p> <p>21 about the trust.</p> <p>22 Q. Well, you were aware that there was a trust?</p> <p>23 A. I was told there was a trust. I don't know if</p> <p>24 that was the trust.</p> <p>25 Q. But you were told that there was a will?</p>	<p>PAGE 19</p> <p>1 Q. Would that have been part of the trust?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know.</p> <p>3 Q. But he wanted his home to be perpetuated as a</p> <p>4 museum?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. And when did you learn of that desire?</p> <p>7 A. I don't know.</p> <p>8 Q. Now, do you have any reason to believe that your</p> <p>9 father did not have full mental capacity when he signed the</p> <p>10 trust documents?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Have you read the trust documents?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you read the trust documents at the same time</p> <p>15 you read the will?</p> <p>16 A. No, not at the same time but in the same vicinity</p> <p>17 of time, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Within a day or so?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Is there anything about your father's trust</p> <p>21 documents that you received on December the 27th from Mr.</p> <p>22 Dallas and Mr. Cannon that you disagree with?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Tell me about that, please.</p> <p>25 A. I was--actually on that day I signed a document to</p>
<p>PAGE 18</p> <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. But you--prior to December 27th, 2006, you had not</p> <p>3 seen the will?</p> <p>4 A. I had not seen that will, no.</p> <p>5 Q. And you didn't know the details of the will?</p> <p>6 A. Other than to know that the children, all of--ze,</p> <p>7 my brothers and sisters and grandchildren would be taken</p> <p>8 care of. We would all be taken care of.</p> <p>9 Q. And your dad had said that in general terms?</p> <p>10 A. Yes. He said that to me.</p> <p>11 Q. In general terms?</p> <p>12 A. What do you mean by general terms?</p> <p>13 Q. Well, had he gone into specifics?</p> <p>14 A. Well, I mean he said some things to me that I held</p> <p>15 dear to my heart that he felt about me.</p> <p>16 Q. What did he say?</p> <p>17 A. Well, he said that--you know, Deanna, you've</p> <p>18 traveled a lot, you've seen a lot with me and I want you to</p> <p>19 make sure that everybody's taken care of and everybody's</p> <p>20 okay.</p> <p>21 Q. Did he say anything else in--to you in regard to</p> <p>22 his estate plans?</p> <p>23 A. Not in detail, no.</p> <p>24 Q. In general terms?</p> <p>25 A. I think that he wanted his home to be a museum.</p>	<p>PAGE 20</p> <p>1 be a trustee because I was told that Al Bradley was no</p> <p>2 longer a trustee and he would not be a part of the trust.</p> <p>3 And I signed a document stating that I would be the trust</p> <p>4 because I was told by David Cannon that--</p> <p>5 MR. LEVENSON: You mean you'd be the trustee.</p> <p>6 A. I would be a trustee in place of Bradley because</p> <p>7 that's what my father wanted. And that's what was told to</p> <p>8 me by David Cannon and Mr. Dallas.</p> <p>9 Q. [Mr. Bell] Was that something you were told on</p> <p>10 that date?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Was that written in the trust document?</p> <p>13 A. No, it was not written in the trust document but I</p> <p>14 was provided with a sheet to sign to become a trustee on</p> <p>15 that day, to be added to that document.</p> <p>16 Q. My question was not conversations or actions</p> <p>17 subsequent to your dad's death. But my question went to the</p> <p>18 document itself. My question is: do you have any problems</p> <p>19 with the trust document?</p> <p>20 A. In terms of what it contains?</p> <p>21 Q. Yes.</p> <p>22 MR. LEVENSON: And I'm going--Deanna, you are not</p> <p>23 to discuss with him anything you and I have discussed</p> <p>24 as far as legal advice. If he's asking your personal</p> <p>25 opinion you can answer the question; otherwise, my</p>

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1 advice is do not answer the question if it calls upon
2 legal advice that I've given you.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 Q. [Mr. Bell] And my question is what problems do
5 you have with that trust document?

6 A. As I stated, that problem will be that statement
7 as when I said it's in terms of that being signed, having to
8 sign that document.

9 Q. But that's something after the fact that I would
10 characterize as a problem you might have with Mr. Cannon and
11 Mr. Dallas. As far as the document itself is concerned can
12 you articulate for us any problem you might have with the
13 document?

14 A. Can I articulate any problem that I have with the
15 document. The fact that the three trustees that were--the
16 two trustees that were named, I had a problem with that.

17 Q. And which--you have a problem that your--that your
18 father named Cannon, Dallas and Bradley as the trustees of
19 the trust document?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you understand that to have been your father's
22 free will intention?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was your father fully capable of making that
25 decision when he signed the document?

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1 A. To my knowledge, I would assume so.

2 Q. Do you have any--can you articulate any other
3 problem you have with the trust document other than the
4 decision your father made as to the three trustees?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Other than the selection that your father made of
7 Cannon, Bradley and Dallas as trustees, are you willing to
8 cooperate with all the other terms of the James Brown
9 irrevocable trust?

10 A. I can't say fully but most of, yes.

11 Q. What parts of the James Brown irrevocable trust
12 would you not want to cooperate with other than the
13 selection of the three trustees?

14 A. Other than that--

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. --I can't think of anything right now.

17 Q. And my question was--you know, I understand you
18 have a disagreement with the three individuals that your dad
19 named as the trustees. Can you articulate any other aspect
20 of--

21 A. No.

22 Q. --the James Brown irrevocable trust that you are
23 not willing to cooperate with?

24 A. No, I can't right now.

25 Q. Now, did--now, prior to your dad's death how

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1 frequently would you visit the Douglas--is it Douglas Road
2 or Douglas Street?

3 A. Douglas Drive.

4 Q. How frequently would you visit the Douglas Drive
5 property?

6 A. Probably, when he was home, once every couple
7 weeks.

8 Q. When he was not home?

9 A. I would not go down. I think--well, I have been
10 down there when he wasn't home if I had to go and see
11 someone that worked there.

12 Q. But primarily when your dad was--

13 A. Oh, yeah.

14 Q. And every couple of weeks stop by and say hello.

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. Was it one of those nondescript visits? Just hey,
17 how are you doing. Get a cup of coffee, drink a Coke.

18 A. It just depend. He may wanted to see me. I may
19 go by or just maybe stopping by on a Sunday after church, me
20 and my husband and my son, to check on Dad, see how Dad's
21 doing.

22 Q. No particular reason, just--

23 A. No particular reason at all. Stopping by to see
24 how Dad's doing. That's it.

25 Q. Just a nondescript family visit?

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1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. No particular reason?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. It really--

5 MR. LEVENSON: Yes or no.

6 A. Yes, yes, yes.

7 Q. [Mr. Bell] Now, how did you learn of your
8 father's untimely passing?

9 A. I was away. I was overseas visiting--well, me and
10 my family were overseas in Mexico and, unfortunate for me, I
11 found out on CNN.

12 Q. I'm sorry. Came home immediately?

13 A. Immediately.

14 Q. When was the first time you visited Douglas Drive
15 after--

16 A. December 26th--

17 Q. The next day?

18 A. --2006.

19 Q. Who was present then?

20 A. All my family, Mr. Bobbitt, Mr. Dallas, Mr.
21 Cannon, Reverend Al Sharpton, his driver.

22 Q. Reverend Sharpton's driver?

23 A. Yes. A private investigator--two private
24 investigators that Mr. Dallas had in there, some of the
25 security that was there, two or three of the security guys.

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1 And when I say all my family, I meant all my brothers and
2 sisters except for Darrell. My husband Shawn, Yamma's
3 exhusband Darren. And I said all my brothers and sisters
4 but there was a grand--Forlando was there; Ronunzo. That's
5 all I can think of right now.
6 Q. Do you know the names of the two investigators Mr.
7 Dallas had there?
8 A. I don't remember. I think that they work with
9 Geze Staulcup.
10 Q. Do you know Mr. Staulcup?
11 A. I met him once or twice.
12 Q. So was it--
13 A. It wasn't him. It was two other people that I
14 assume work for him.
15 Q. You think it was two Staulcup employees?
16 A. Yeah, that's what I assume. I don't know. They
17 were doing videotaping.
18 Q. Now--
19 A. And then I think that same night someone from
20 Dixie Lock & Safe came for the vault.
21 Q. Now, let me go down that list. Bobbitt; Dallas;
22 Cannon; Sharpton; Sharpton's driver; two investigators that
23 you believe were with Staulcup & Associates that were
24 videotaping the activities of the day; then you said the
25 security.

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1 A. Uh-huh.
2 Q. Were those the security--
3 A. Security that were there.
4 Q. But was that the ones that had--
5 A. Worked there.
6 Q. Before your dad's passing?
7 A. No.
8 Q. They were called in--
9 A. No, I'm sorry. Yeah, it was a couple of people
10 that worked there prior to--no. There was one security guy
11 that worked there and then--that I knew that worked there
12 before Dad passed. And then a couple that was hired after
13 Dad passed.
14 Q. Was the gentleman that had worked security for
15 your dad prior to his passing, was that--did he work for a
16 company or was it just an individual?
17 A. He--I don't know. He worked for my dad.
18 Q. Now, you--
19 A. Also two--David Washington was there, too.
20 Q. And who is David Washington?
21 A. He worked for Dad, his personal assistant.
22 Q. Did the security--do you think there might have
23 been some new security guards?
24 A. Yes, there was. They were new.
25 Q. Who brought them in?

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1 A. Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon.
2 Q. Do--were they with a company or were they
3 individuals?
4 A. They were with a company.
5 Q. What company would that be?
6 A. Sizemore.
7 Q. And you said your family was there except for
8 Darrell. Your other brothers and sisters?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. Give me their names, please.
11 A. Terry, Larry, Venetia, Yamma.
12 Q. So Venetia, Larry, Terry, Deanna and Yamma were
13 present; Darrell was not?
14 A. Right.
15 Q. Was any cash or--was any cash found or discovered
16 in the house on that day?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. How much?
19 A. I don't remember how much.
20 Q. Who found the cash and where did they find it?
21 A. I don't exactly remember who found it. It was
22 found in one--in the cabinet, one of the cabinets in the
23 living room, and it was immediately taken to the vault. If
24 I'm not mistaken, Forlando and my sister Yamma and Venetia
25 took it to the vault. It was in--there was some in a brown

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1 paper bag and then there were some coins in a Quaker oats
2 can--canister.
3 Q. Was it--did the coins have any--
4 A. I don't know what the coins looked like.
5 Q. What I was going to ask is did the coins have
6 collectors value or was it just--
7 A. I don't know.
8 MR. LEVENSON: Let him finish the question
9 completely, Deanna, and then answer it, okay.
10 Q. [Mr. Bell] Or was it--and I'll give you an
11 example. At the end of the day I take the change out of my
12 pocket and dump it in a jar and every month or so I'll roll
13 up the coins and--
14 A. I don't know.
15 Q. Did anyone count the cash?
16 A. I can't remember.
17 Q. Do you what range--are we talking about small
18 denominations, large denominations? Were we talking
19 several--
20 A. \$100 bills.
21 Q. Are we talking several \$100 bills--
22 A. Uh-huh.
23 Q. --or thousands?
24 A. Yes, several \$100 bills.
25 Q. Was it more than 1,000 or less than 1,000? How

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much?

A. I don't know the exact amount 'cause I did not count. All I know is it was a bunch of \$100 bills.

Q. Well, if it's several \$100 bills I would--my characterization of that would be in the smaller range. If it was a bunch of \$100 bills I would put that in a larger range.

A. That's you.

Q. Would you--

A. A bunch of \$100 bills.

Q. And that was all put into the safe?

A. Yes.

Q. Were there any cashier's checks found?

A. I understand, yes, there was. They were put in the vault as well.

Q. Did you see the cashier's checks?

A. No, I did not.

Q. Did you count the cashier's checks?

A. No, I did not.

Q. Do you know if anyone counted the--

A. No, I do not.

Q. --cashier's checks or the cash?

A. No.

Q. Was it a lot of cashier's checks or a small number of cashier's checks?

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A. It's--

Q. Well, you called it a vault. Do you call it a vault or a safe?

A. It's a safe. I say a vault but it stands high.

Q. Now, your hand is--it looked to me like around four feet off the ground.

A. At least.

Q. Four or five feet high?

A. Yes.

Q. Does it go all the way to the ground?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, inside if it's four or five feet high what would be the internal dimensions?

A. I don't know.

Q. Two by three, two feet by three feet?

A. I don't know.

Q. Deanna, some people have what's called gun safes to put guns in. Have you--do you know what I'm talking about?

A. I think I've seen one before, but.

Q. Would the safe that your dad has in his house be kind of the size of a gun safe?

A. Maybe.

Q. Now, who was present when the safe was opened?

A. What day?

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A. I don't know how many it was.

Q. What were the denominations?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know who found the cashier's checks?

A. I don't know exactly who found them.

Q. Would it have been one of your family members or would it have been one of the non-family members?

A. One of the family members.

Q. Were they--for want of a better term, was the inventory and the looking through things, was that conducted by the family members or by the non-family members?

A. What? The inventory?

Q. Well, somebody had to have been looking for things when they found the checks and the cashier's checks and the cash and the coins.

A. Okay.

Q. Was the process--

A. I don't--like I said, I don't know exactly when they were found. I know that they were put in the vault.

Q. And I understand that. But what I'm getting at was the--were the individuals who were doing the looking for things, were those family members or the non-family members?

A. Family members.

Q. Now, talk to me about the safe. What is the size of the safe?

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Q. Everything I'm talking about is on the 26th.

A. Everyone was there; everyone that's listed was there.

Q. So the whole crowd was there for the opening?

A. I don't know if everyone was in the room at that time.

Q. But most of them were there?

A. But when I was in the room, it was Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon because they wanted things out of there. So that--and my sister. I know we were standing there because they asked for stock certificates.

Q. And I'll get to that in a minute. How was the safe opened?

A. This Dixie Lock man had to come in and open it 'cause no one could open it.

Q. Now, did he use safe cracking devices or was he given the combination?

A. He was given the combination.

Q. Who had the combination?

A. Mr. Dallas.

Q. Before he showed up Mr. Dallas had the combination?

A. Yes.

Q. And did anyone try to open the safe before Dixie Lock got involved?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. Who was that?
3 A. Mr. Dallas tried, the private investigator guy I
4 think tried. That's all I can remember but they couldn't
5 get it open.
6 Q. And the combination they had was given to the
7 Dixie Lock man and--
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. --he opened it? Do you know how Mr. Cannon--how
10 Mr. Dallas got the combination to the safe?
11 A. No, I don't.
12 Q. Do you know if he had just received it or if he
13 had had it for some time?
14 A. I do not know.
15 Q. And when Dixie Lock opened the safe did they
16 change the combination or did--
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And so after it was initially opened on the 26th a
19 new combination was implanted into the computer?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. And that was done by Dixie Lock or Dixie Safe
22 company?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Do you know who received the new combination?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And that would be?
2 A. Myself and Yamma.
3 Q. Anyone else?
4 A. No, uh-uh. Not at that time.
5 Q. Now, when the safe was initially opened by Dixie
6 Lock who was in the room?
7 A. I can't remember exactly who but for the most
8 part, Mr. Dallas, Mr. Cannon, myself, Yamma and maybe some
9 of the other siblings.
10 Q. Was anyone--any one of the group that you've
11 identified that was at the house on the 26th denied access
12 to the room when the safe was opened?
13 A. No.
14 Q. And I'm asking some of these questions because
15 I've never been in the house and I don't know any of the
16 dimensions. Which room was the safe in?
17 A. Laundry room.
18 Q. How large is the laundry room?
19 A. Maybe about two-thirds of this room.
20 Q. And this is--this room is probably 20 feet wide
21 and 30 feet long.
22 A. I don't do measurements. I don't know. I'd say
23 about two-thirds of this room. That's the best I can tell
24 you.
25 Q. So a fairly large laundry room?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. And was the laundry room large enough for most of
3 the crowd that was there on the 26th to get into it?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. But it would have been crowded?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Now, when the safe was opened for the first time
8 by Dixie Lock what did you observe in the safe?
9 A. Jewelry, stock certificates, other documents,
10 safes--smaller safes.
11 Q. Smaller safe or safes, plural?
12 A. Safes, plural.
13 Q. Jewelry; stock certificates; smaller safes,
14 plural.
15 Q. And other documents.
16 Q. Have I written down everything? Jewelry, stock
17 certificates, smaller safes and documents?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Was the videographer there to video things as they
20 were being identified in the safe or removed from the safe?
21 A. Nothing was removed when the safe was opened. A
22 videotape was being--was on.
23 Q. Well, I guess was anything picked up, looked at
24 and then put back into it?
25 A. We looked inside one safe to find there was

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1 jewelry there.
2 Q. Was there anything in the big safe that was not in
3 a smaller safe?
4 A. Documents.
5 Q. Was there--
6 A. I think there were some--may have been some camera
7 equipment, if I'm not mistaken. That's all I can really
8 remember.
9 Q. Was all the jewelry in a smaller safe?
10 A. Not all of it.
11 Q. Some jewelry in a smaller safe and some not?
12 A. Right.
13 Q. But--and I'm talking about all the jewelry in the
14 safe.
15 A. Yes. There was some in a smaller safe and there
16 was some that was not in a smaller safe.
17 Q. Was a videotape made of all of the jewelry?
18 A. What was just seen that night. All of the
19 jewelry--we did not see all of the jewelry that night.
20 Q. You didn't take it all out and put it back?
21 A. No.
22 Q. You just saw that there was some there--
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. --and closed it back up?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Do you know how much jewelry was there?
2 A. No, I do not.
3 Q. Do you know the value of the jewelry that was
4 there?
5 A. No, I do not.
6 Q. Was it diamonds and rubies and gold or was it
7 costume jewelry, or do you know the difference?
8 A. It was watches. It was rings. It was bracelets,
9 earrings. 'Cause there was ladies' jewelry there.
10 Q. Men and women's?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Was it all--did it all belong to your dad or do
13 you know?
14 [Mr. Buddy Dallas exits the conference room
15 momentarily.]
16 A. Well, if you wear ladies jewelry. Some of his
17 jewelry was there and his late wife, Adrienne. That was
18 most of her jewelry.
19 Q. Now, you said there were stock certificates.
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. How many?
22 A. I don't exactly know how many.
23 Q. What companies?
24 A. House of Blues, Aloha Airlines.
25 Q. House of Blues?

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1 A. Uh-huh. Aloha Airlines. That's all I saw.
2 Q. Now, is House of Blues a business that your dad
3 owned?
4 A. He did not own the business.
5 Q. He just had shares of stock in it?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Is that a privately held company?
8 A. I don't know.
9 Q. Do you know anything about--do you know what--
10 A. I know House of Blues is an entertainment
11 business.
12 Q. And do you know how many shares of stock he would
13 have had in the House of Blues?
14 A. 8,000.
15 Q. Do you know the face value?
16 A. No, I do not. I'd say roughly 8,000. I don't
17 know if that's exact.
18 Q. Where is House of Blues located?
19 A. They have places all over.
20 Q. Is it a fairly large entertainment business or
21 small?
22 A. Yes. Very large.
23 Q. Who are the principals?
24 A. Don't know.
25 Q. Do you know where the House of Blues stock is now?

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1 A. No, I do not.
2 Q. Would that be something that's fairly easy to
3 trace?
4 MR. LEVENSON: If you know.
5 A. I would assume.
6 Q. [Mr. Bell] Where is the principal office of House
7 of Blues?
8 A. I don't know.
9 Q. Who are the principal owners involved?
10 A. I don't know.
11 Q. Do you know anything about it?
12 A. I can--well, I do know one principal. I can tell
13 you one principal is Dan Aykroyd, but that's all I know.
14 Q. Is that something that came out of the Blues
15 Brothers?
16 A. I don't know where the concept came from.
17 Q. The other stock that you identified was Aloha
18 Airlines?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Tell me about that business.
21 A. It's an airline business. That's all I know.
22 Q. Is it a private airline?
23 A. I don't know.
24 Q. Do you know how many shares of stock were in--
25 A. No. I don't know exactly how many he had there.

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1 Q. Do you know of any stock that was in the safe
2 other than House of Blues and Aloha Airlines?
3 A. No, I don't.
4 Q. Did you see any other stock in there but just
5 didn't see the name?
6 A. It's possible 'cause there were other documents in
7 the safe.
8 Q. But do you remember seeing any other stock?
9 A. No.
10 Q. Now, you said there were other documents in the
11 safe. Could you identify those?
12 A. No, I can't exactly.
13 Q. And now, how were the smaller safes opened?
14 A. Just click the flap and open it up.
15 Q. I mean were they locked?
16 A. No.
17 Q. Were they more like containers than safes?
18 A. No. It was a safe. It was--
19 Q. But just unlocked?
20 A. Right. It wasn't locked 'cause we were able to
21 open it and see the jewelry was there.
22 Q. But it wasn't secured in the smaller safe?
23 A. No, not--
24 Q. --is that correct?
25 A. No, it was not.

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Q. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it locked with a key or locked with a combination?

A. What?

Q. The smaller safes.

MR. LEVENSON: I think she said it wasn't locked at all.

MR. BELL: I understand, I understand.

Q. [Mr. Bell] But was the locking mechanism by a key or by a combination?

A. I think a key.

Q. Do you know where the key would have been?

A. No.

Q. But it just wasn't secured--

A. No.

Q. --is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, how long was the safe left open on the 26th?

A. I don't exactly know an exact time but when it was closed that night--I know it wasn't opened up that night and once it was closed, it was closed.

Q. Are we talking about 30 minutes or in that range?

A. No. I'm thinking a little longer than that.

Q. Everybody was present during the entire time?

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1 wanted to go over to look for some documents that they felt
2 like Dad had been hiding somewhere in the house.

Q. Did your dad hide things everywhere?

A. He did sometimes, yeah.

Q. So that wasn't unusual for them to think that there might be some documents stashed away in the house?

A. I assume.

Q. How much longer--was it still in 2006 or had it been that second visit after your dad's death? Was that in 2006 or 2007?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Within that--within a week or two?

A. Yeah. It was in that week. I can't remember what day.

Q. Were you with Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon when they went through the house the second time?

A. Yes.

Q. With them the whole time?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Is that yes?

A. Yes.

Q. Were any documents found?

A. No.

Q. Was anything removed from the house that second time?

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A. Yes.

Q. And then everybody was present when the safe was closed?

A. Well, yes, uh-huh. Yes, yes.

Q. And everything that had been seen in the safe was put back into the safe?

A. Put back into the safe, yes.

Q. And some additional things were put into the safe?

A. Yes.

Q. The cash?

A. Yes.

Q. And the stock--not stock. The traveler's checks?

A. Yes.

Q. Was anything else put into the safe other than its original contents and the cash and the traveler--

MR. LEVENSON: I don't think it was traveler's checks.

MR. BELL: I'm sorry. Cashier's checks. Thank you.

A. Some more jewelry that we found in Dad's bedroom. I think a watch.

Q. [Mr. Bell] Now, after the 26th when did you next go to the Douglas Street [sic] house?

A. Oh, goodness. One day--I can't remember the exact day. One day that Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon called and

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A. No.

Q. Was the safe opened?

A. No.

Q. When was the next time you went to the house?

A. I don't remember the exact day but it was following after the first of the year. It would have to be after January 2nd.

Q. Why do you say after the second?

A. Well, January 2nd is my birthday and I didn't go over there on my birthday.

Q. And how long after January the 2nd?

A. That week.

Q. And who was with you the third time you went into the house, that week of January the 2nd?

A. Security, David Washington.

Q. Were the security and David Washington with you the whole time?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did you do in the house the second time? What was the reason for that--

A. That wasn't the second time, but.

Q. What was the reason for that visit after January 2nd?

A. To clean. To clean the house.

Q. And by security who are we talking about in

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1 security?

2 A. Colonel Lee, Diane Sterling.

3 Q. Were they with Regents Security--I mean Sizemore
4 Security?

5 A. No. They were the security that Dad hired.

6 Q. They were the private security that had worked for
7 him before?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And Mr. Washington?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And they were with you the whole time?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you--was any other family member with you?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And when did you next go to the house?

16 A. Actually, I can't say exactly when but I did go to
17 the house to clean at least a couple weeks.

18 Q. Several times?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Are we talking about two times, three times, four
21 times, five times?

22 A. Probably about five times.

23 Q. In a two-week period?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And when you would go to the house to clean was

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1 A. Probably, yes, sir.

2 Q. How long would you be at the house?

3 A. A few hours.

4 Q. Each time; is that right?

5 A. Maybe not each time. Maybe one time a little
6 longer than the other.

7 Q. Average several hours each time?

8 A. A couple of hours. Not--I wouldn't say several
9 but--

10 Q. A couple of hours each time?

11 A. Yeah. About three, two or three.

12 Q. Now, did Mr. Washington help you clean--

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. --or was he just there? Did the security help you
15 clean?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you washing clothes?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Washing any linens?

20 A. Yes, we did.

21 Q. Were cleaning supplies kept in the laundry room?

22 A. For the most part.

23 Q. Typical house where the Spic 'n Span and the Tide
24 and the Ajax are in the--

25 A. Yes.

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1 anyone with you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And I'm not talking about the folks there. I'm
4 talking about did anyone go to the house with you?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You went by yourself?

7 A. No. My sister came one time. Yamma came one time
8 and we did some cleaning.

9 Q. And the other four or five times you were there--

10 A. With security and David Washington.

11 Q. But by yourself?

12 A. Yes, yes, yes.

13 Q. And then the--and what type cleaning were you
14 doing?

15 A. Cleaning the refrigerator, cleaning the bathrooms,
16 cleaning the floors.

17 Q. Just--

18 A. Housecleaning.

19 Q. Sweeping, mopping, dusting, vacuuming?

20 A. Housecleaning, uh-huh.

21 Q. And cleaning out the refrigerator?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And when you would go over there those five or six
24 times during--are we talking about up till the middle of
25 January 2007?

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1 Q. --washroom with the Tide and the Clorox?

2 A. For the most part, yes.

3 Q. Now, since your dad passed away on December 25th,
4 2006, have you removed any property from your dad's house?

5 A. That night we took clothes that he had--that we
6 had to give the--

7 Q. Charlie Reid?

8 A. Yes. Mr. Reid. And--

9 Q. What, a suit and tie?

10 A. Yes. A couple suits, yeah.

11 Q. Shirt?

12 A. A couple shirts, boots.

13 Q. A couple of suits to pick and see what looked the
14 best?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Have you removed anything else?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Any pictures?

19 A. Oh, photos that we used for the programs.

20 Q. Other than--other than that have you removed
21 anything from the house?

22 A. No.

23 Q. --at any time since December 25th?

24 A. No.

25 Q. To your knowledge has Yamma removed anything from

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1 the house?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Are you aware if anyone has removed anything from
4 your dad's house since December the 25th, 2006?

5 A. I didn't see anyone, no.

6 Q. Has anyone told you that they have seen anyone
7 remove things from your dad's house since December 25th,
8 2006?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Who has? Who has told you?

11 A. I was told by security that one day the--one day
12 in January that Mr. Dallas, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Bradley was
13 in the home and went into one of the rooms and found
14 something behind a photo. He was asked to step out of the
15 room at that point but he believes that things were taken,
16 something was taken out that day.

17 Q. Does he believe something or did he see something?

18 A. He seen paperwork come from behind or some kind of
19 paper come from behind a photo. After that they asked him
20 to get out of the room.

21 Q. Do you know which security said that?

22 A. Colonel Lee.

23 MR. LEVENSON: Colonel who?

24 A. Colonel Lee.

25 Q. [Mr. Bell] Colonel Lee. Are you aware of

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1 been removed.

2 Q. Anything else?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You said some awards that you just don't remember
5 seeing. Do you remember the awards that you're talking
6 about?

7 A. Some plaques that were not there on the walls that
8 were there before.

9 Q. Do you remember the names?

10 A. One from NAACP, one from the Grammys, I think.
11 Not specific but I know that where they were on the wall,
12 they were not there when we went back September 17th.

13 Q. You've said that on December the 26th you and
14 Yamma received the combination to the safe.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you and Yamma still have the combination to the
17 safe?

18 A. No. We turned that over to our lawyer who turned
19 it over to Rodney Feebles.

20 Q. And when was that?

21 A. Some time in March, I think.

22 Q. Between December 25th--26th, 2006 and March 2007
23 did anyone have the combination to your dad's safe other
24 than you and Yamma?

25 A. The man at Dixie Lock.

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1 anything else? Has anyone else told you that they're aware
2 of anything being removed from the house, other than what
3 you've said about Colonel Lee?

4 A. We were there on September 17th, the family, and
5 we found that two cars were sold. And when we went in, I
6 was able to notice that some furniture and a few little
7 things seemed like they may have been missing.

8 Q. Do you know what furniture and what little things?

9 A. Some furniture in the front room and the foyer.
10 Some awards I didn't see. I can't say that they've been
11 removed but I didn't see them, awards that I know.

12 Q. And tell me what--describe the furniture we're
13 talking about. A desk, a chair, a sofa?

14 A. It was like a desk. Bedroom furniture was gone.

15 Q. Give me the best you can an itemization.

16 A. Dresser, a couple dressers, a bed.

17 Q. Anything else?

18 A. Like I said, furniture. A couple pieces of
19 furniture, tables.

20 Q. New furniture, old furniture, antique furniture or
21 do you know?

22 A. Furniture.

23 Q. Just--

24 A. A couple tables I know that I did not see. I did
25 not see them and so that's why I said that they may have

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1 Q. And the man who originally programmed it?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. Anyone else that you're aware of?

4 A. We turned it over to our lawyer. That's it.

5 Q. Now, to your knowledge did Yamma go into the house
6 at any time between December 26th and March of 2007?

7 A. She went in one time with me when we were doing
8 some cleaning.

9 Q. And was she in the house for several hours at that
10 time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Anyone else?

13 A. That day?

14 Q. Anyone else to your knowledge go into the house
15 during that period of time?

16 A. The--

17 MR. LEVENSON: Do you mean with her or at any
18 time?

19 Q. [Mr. Bell] From December the 26th through March.

20 A. Other than the people that worked there?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. The trustees.

23 Q. And other than the trustees?

24 A. A private investigator.

25 Q. Whose private investigator?

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1 A. The one that Mr. Dallas hired.
2 Q. Anyone else?
3 A. Not to my knowledge.
4 Q. To your knowledge did the security keep a log of
5 everyone who went in and went out?
6 A. To my knowledge.
7 Q. Did you sign in and sign out every time you were
8 there?
9 A. Yes.
10 MR. BELL: Now, I'm going to shift gears for just
11 a moment. We've been going for about an hour. Does
12 anybody need to take a little break?
13 Q. [Mr. Bell] Your dad had a relationship with Tomi
14 Rae; is that correct?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. What did your dad tell you about his relationship
17 with Tomi Rae?
18 A. He didn't talk about his relationship to much to
19 me. That was a private matter.
20 Q. Did he talk to you about whether he was married to
21 her or not married?
22 A. No.
23 Q. Did he ever say anything about he had intentions
24 to marry Tomi Rae or no intentions or anything in that
25 regard?

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1 A. No.
2 Q. Do you know whether or not he was married to Tomi
3 Rae or not married to Tomi Rae?
4 A. There was a ceremony. After the ceremony, a
5 couple years later there was a problem and I know that he
6 had gotten an annulment. He did say that after this
7 problem.
8 Q. That he had the original marriage to Tomi Rae
9 annulled?
10 A. Yes. That's what he said.
11 Q. Did he ever represent that he was--after that did
12 he ever represent to you that he was married to Tomi Rae?
13 A. No.
14 MR. LEVENSON: And the that references what?
15 Q. [Mr. Bell] After he told you that he had had the
16 original ceremony annulled did he ever tell you that he was
17 married to Tomi Rae?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Tomi Rae has a child; is that correct?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. What is the child's name?
22 A. James Joseph Junior II.
23 Q. Called Little Man?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. Nickname?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. Did James Brown ever tell you anything about James
3 Joseph Brown II, Tomi Rae's son?
4 A. I mean just Little Man's something else. You
5 know, we'd just have a little family conversation, that kind
6 of thing. Nothing in particular.
7 Q. Did he ever tell you that that child was his child
8 or not his child or that he had thoughts or doubts or
9 anything in that regard, the parentage?
10 A. We didn't actually talk about that.
11 Q. Now, to your knowledge--let me back up. You
12 identified at the beginning six brothers and sisters, six
13 children of James Brown.
14 A. Uh-huh, yes.
15 Q. And those being Terry Brown, Yamma Brown, Larry
16 Brown, Venetia Brown and Darrell Brown?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Is that the six that you identified initially?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Are you aware of whether or not James Brown had
21 any children other than the six including yourself that you
22 had identified?
23 A. Prior to now?
24 Q. Yes.
25 A. No, I had not.

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1 Q. Now, several weeks ago Mr. Dallas sent out a copy
2 of an audiotape made by your dad on the day that he executed
3 the will. Are you aware of that?
4 MR. LEVENSON: That's an incorrect statement of
5 fact.
6 A. No, I'm not aware of it.
7 MR. LEVENSON: Just answer the question if you
8 know.
9 Q. [Mr. Bell] Are you aware that an audiotape of
10 your dad has been dispersed by Mr. Dallas?
11 A. I'm aware that there is an audiotape that was
12 given to the news.
13 Q. You're aware of an audiotape that's been given to
14 the news?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. Have you heard that audiotape?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Do you believe that audiotape is in fact your
19 dad's voice?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. Do you know when your dad made that audiotape?
22 A. No.
23 Q. Does it sound like your dad?
24 A. It sounds like.
25 Q. Does he sound to be under any stress or pressure

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1 when he made that audiotape?

2 A. Can't really tell.

3 Q. Is there anything about that audiotape that you
4 agree with, disagree with or just don't have an opinion?

5 A. I just don't have an opinion.

6 Q. In that tape he talks about his desires for his
7 legacy and his estate; is that correct?

8 A. He mentions that he wants to see poor children
9 taken care of and given an opportunity that he didn't have.
10 To me, he did not go into detail about what he wanted done.
11 But he said that.

12 Q. Do you have any disagreement with seeing his words
13 of looking out for poor children implemented?

14 A. Do I have any disagreement with that?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. No, I do not.

17 MR. LEVENSON: Let me just object to the form of
18 the question in that regard. Are you asking her her
19 personal opinion as to whether her personal views are
20 consistent with what words are spoken by her father, or
21 is that the intent--

22 MR. BELL: No. Whether she--whether she has any
23 disagreement with his words where he says he wants to
24 look out--he wants his legacy to be providing for poor
25 children.

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1 A. Part of his legacy, yes, to be providing for poor
2 children, yes.

3 Q. [Mr. Bell] Do you have any disagreement with what
4 his words were--

5 A. No.

6 Q. --on that tape?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Now, in this case there has been some disagreement
9 arising out of what is estate property and what is trust
10 property. Are you aware of that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you have any opinions as to what property
13 should be in the James Brown trust as opposed to what
14 property and assets should be in the James Brown estate?

15 A. I don't really understand the question so I don't
16 know really how to answer that.

17 Q. Well, some of your father's assets would go into
18 the estate; is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Some of your father's assets would go into the
21 James Brown I Feel Good Trust.

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. You don't know if anything would go into the
24 trust?

25 A. I don't know--

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1 MR. LEVENSON: I mean, David, you're asking her
2 legal questions.

3 A. I don't know.

4 MR. LEVENSON: If you're asking her what her
5 preference is or her personal point of view she may be
6 able to answer it. I mean--

7 MR. BELL: I'm not asking her preference.

8 MR. LEVENSON: Then I object to the form of the
9 question.

10 Q. [Mr. Bell] And under the rules, he objects and
11 that's stated. You can now go ahead and answer.

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. So you don't have any knowledge as to what should
14 be estate property as opposed to what should be trust
15 property?

16 A. No, I do not, uh-uh.

17 MR. BELL: I'd like to take a little break. I
18 need a little break.

19 [Recess 11:25 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.]

20 MR. HARLING: Hey, Ms. Thomas, how are you doing?

21 THE WITNESS: Fine. How are you?

22 MR. HARLING: We've met before. My name is
23 Jonathan Harling. I'm one of the attorneys for the
24 estate. I've just got a handful of questions for you
25 this morning. I understand you've got to get out of

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1 here, so I'll be as quick as possible.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. HARLING:

4 Q. Are you aware of any frequent flyer miles that
5 belonged to Mr. Brown?

6 A. No, I don't know about any.

7 Q. To your knowledge, has anyone used any frequent
8 flyer miles that belonged to Mr. Brown since he passed away?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And I believe you testified earlier that to your
11 knowledge no one had removed any property from the house
12 since Mr. Brown passed away.

13 A. I didn't say that.

14 MR. LEVENSON: I think other than what she
15 testified.

16 Q. Other than--okay.

17 MR. LEVENSON: I think clothing was removed for
18 the funeral and some pictures for the funeral.
19 Whatever else the record reflects other than that.

20 A. No.

21 Q. [Mr. Harling] To your knowledge, did anyone
22 remove two plastic bags from the house?

23 A. Two plastic bags, I don't know.

24 Q. Trash bags, garbage bags?

25 A. That was garbage, yezh. There was garbage out

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there.

Q. And that's it?

A. Yes.

MR. HARLING: Ms. Thomas, that's all the questions I have for you. Thank you very much.

MS. LEWIS: I have just one or two.

EXAMINATION

BY MS. LEWIS:

Q. Ms. Thomas, you mentioned that your father had said to you that all the children would be taken care of.

A. Yes.

Q. When did that conversation take place?

A. I don't know.

Q. Was it the year before he died, two years before, three years before?

A. I don't know. I can't say for exactly when. I mean honestly I don't know. We had that conversation once.

Q. Just one time?

A. To my knowledge, yes.

Q. And--

A. That I can think of.

Q. Where did it take place?

A. At his home.

Q. Who else was present?

A. It was just him and I.

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Q. Did he elaborate on that statement, what that meant?

A. In detail, no. He just said that you would--you and everybody would be taken care of and I want you to make sure that everyone, all your brothers and sisters and the children are taken care of.

Q. How did it come up?

A. Well, Dad had deep conversations with all of us from time to time and it just came up in the conversation. I felt as though he was kind of putting some pressure on my shoulders to make sure that family was going to be all right when he passed.

Q. And you said that he had heard him--you had heard that there was a trust?

A. Yes.

Q. He didn't share that with you?

A. No. Not the details, no.

Q. Did he share anything about a trust with you?

A. He just said that there is a trust. He didn't say what the name of the trust was or what it entailed.

Q. How did that come up and when did he tell you that?

A. I can't exactly tell you when but just in general conversation.

Q. Was it--do you know if it was in the year before

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he died or in the past six years or can you roughly--

A. I can just say in the past few years. I don't know exactly when.

Q. Did he give you any idea that he was talking about education for poor children when he talked about the trust?

A. No.

Q. And you said that he told you that he wanted his home to be a museum?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, when did this come up?

A. He mentioned that several times but I can't say exactly when.

Q. Did he give you his vision for it?

A. No, no. Just that he wanted his home to be a museum.

Q. Do you support that idea?

A. Wholeheartedly.

MS. LEWIS: That's all I have.

MR. JACKSON: Let me switch around since my neck doesn't rotate too well. Ms. Thomas, as I stated, I'm Stan Jackson. I'm representing the personal representatives in this estate.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. JACKSON:

Q. When did he have this conversation or

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conversations with you pertaining to that he had written a will? When was that? Was it sometime shortly after he wrote the will in 2000?

A. I can't exactly say when.

Q. I know that. But can you give me some time--

A. No, I can't.

Q. Was it more than three years ago or--

A. It may have been. I can't exactly say when.

Q. But did you take it he was referring to the will that you saw on December 26th, 2006?

A. Yes.

Q. And so that's the will that you understand was the will he was referring to that he had written a will?

A. Yes.

Q. Also, pertaining to the trust, you said that he mentioned to you that he had written a trust.

A. Uh-huh, yes.

Q. And again, would that have been about the same time he mentioned to you that he had written a will?

A. Maybe.

Q. And the trust that you saw on December 26th, 2006, or read shortly thereafter, would that be the instrument that you saw that you believe he was referring to?

A. I don't know if that's the one he was referring to. He said a trust; he did not give the name of the trust.

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Q. But do you have any--know of any other trust that he might have set up?

A. No. I don't know.

Q. Was there a meeting of the family in December before his death in 2006?

A. A meeting.

Q. Yes. Or a gathering of family some time in December before his death?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever tell you or other family members that you've heard of that you may not be getting--being, quote, taken care of fully under his last will and testament?

A. No.

Q. Do you believe that the last will and testament that you saw in December of 2006 does fulfill what he represented to you that you and the other children would be taken care of?

A. Yes.

Q. As I understand the will, the personal effects of James Brown are being--to be distributed to you and the other named children in the will, the six that you named previously. Is that your understanding?

A. Yes.

Q. What were Mr. Brown's personal effects?

A. Everything behind that gate.

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house now? His uniforms were used in his business. Was any of his musical instruments used in his business?

A. Not to my knowledge. Maybe.

Q. Maybe. And his business was the entertainment business, as I understand it.

A. Yes.

Q. The--on December the 26th, 2006, when you met and the other families met with Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas, did you and some other members of the family go behind into his bedroom and shut a door and exclude Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas, and come out with a couple of trash sacks?

A. Did we go behind the door and shut the door--

Q. Yes.

A. --and exclude. No, we did not.

Q. Well, tell me what occurred in relationship to how you obtained the--where the sacks that you say were trash were obtained?

A. Throughout the house.

Q. Throughout the house?

A. Uh-huh. Trash, garbage. We were straightening up, trying to get things for the funeral.

Q. Did you ever go behind a closed door without Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas?

A. No.

Q. Did any other members of your family do so?

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Q. Everything behind the gate at--

A. At 430 Douglas Drive.

Q. Do you--did you ever get involved with any of his businesses or how he operated his business?

A. I traveled with him. I worked at the radio station.

Q. And you worked at the radio station and you traveled with him. When you say you traveled with him, would that be when he was doing performances?

A. Performances, yes.

Q. Do you know how his costumes were paid for?

A. He paid for them.

Q. How did he pay for them?

A. I don't know exactly how, but he paid for them.

Q. Did you actually see him write checks for those?

A. No.

Q. Did you see any cash that he used to pay for them?

A. No.

Q. How do you know he paid for them?

A. Because he would always say that these are my uniforms so I assumed he paid for them. He worked and paid for them.

Q. His uniforms, they were used in his business?

A. Yes.

Q. What else was used in his business that's at his

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A. I don't know.

Q. Who determined what was in the trash bags that you contend were trash?

A. It was a collective thing. Like I said, we were all there, all my brothers and sisters except for Darrell.

Q. When you say a collective thing, all your brothers and sisters helped put the trash in the trash bags?

A. I don't exactly know who actually physically did it. I can't say exactly but we were all there collectively.

Q. Did Mr. Dallas or Mr. Cannon ever ask you to inspect what was in the trash bags?

A. No.

Q. Did anybody else such as the security guards?

A. No.

Q. What happened to those trash bags?

A. Went to the trash.

Q. Who in addition to yourself would know what was contained in those trash bags as far as trash?

A. I can't exactly say who would know. I don't know. That was, you know, an emotional night, as well. It wasn't--I wasn't, you know, keeping that close with everything. I can't exactly say.

MR. LEVENSON: The question was who else other than you would know.

A. I can't exactly say. Like I said, my brothers and

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1 sisters except for Darrell, we were collectively there.

2 Q. [Mr. Jackson] Did--was there more than one trash
3 bag?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you dispose of both trash--well, how many
6 trash bags were there?

7 A. I don't exactly know how many.

8 Q. Did you personally dispose of all the trash bags?

9 A. No, I did not.

10 Q. Who did?

11 A. I exactly don't know. I know that Dave Washington
12 took out a couple to put in the trash that was there at the
13 house, so. I don't exactly know who--if anyone else did.

14 Q. Now, before I was involved in the case I
15 understand that your attorneys filed a petition to remove
16 Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon and Mr. Bradley from their
17 positions, based on that they had taken items from the
18 house, among other reasons; is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 [Confidential testimony sealed and filed
21 separately.]

22 Q. What--you say Colonel Lee told you they had taken
23 something from the house?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What did he say they had taken?

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1 A. All he knows is that it was paperwork, some kind
2 of documents, don't exactly know what, that came from behind
3 a photo album--I mean a photo on the wall in one of the
4 rooms in the house.

5 Q. And I understand that Colonel Lee in the hearing
6 recanted an affidavit that was obtained that supposedly
7 stated that he had seen Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon remove
8 items from the house. Were you at that hearing?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And did Mr. Lee say no, that wasn't what I stated?

11 A. I don't remember.

12 Q. Have you talked to Mr. Lee since--to Colonel Lee
13 since then?

14 A. Yes, I have.

15 Q. And what does he tell you now he states happened?

16 A. He doesn't--we don't discuss that.

17 Q. What do you discuss? Anything?

18 A. Just general business.

19 Q. General business?

20 A. Business, you know.

21 Q. Is he still at the Douglas Drive as one of the
22 security guards?

23 A. No, he isn't.

24 Q. What's the general business that you discuss?

25 A. He is security watching at my home.

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1 Q. So he is now employed by you?

2 A. He is not employed by me. He is there to watch
3 over the gravesite.

4 Q. Who pays--

5 MR. LEVENSON: Hold on one second. We have--it
6 just occurred to me that we have people in the room who
7 are not parties to this action. And it further
8 occurred to me that the agreement which was made to
9 which I think everyone in the room is either a party or
10 aware of as to the arrangements for the temporary
11 interment of Mr. Brown was to be confidential.

12 MR. JACKSON: I didn't know that.

13 MR. LEVENSON: Well, I do. And so my concern is
14 that if you're going to ask any questions regarding
15 this with parties--with persons in the room who are not
16 parties to the action and not bound by those
17 confidentiality agreements and orders, then I'm going
18 to have to ask that anyone who is not a party to the
19 action leave the room. We've had--we're already going
20 down this road on one matter and I'd rather not start
21 down another road on the same issue.

22 MR. BELL: Was he asking about the interment or
23 asking about a security guard and who was paying him?
24 I think that's two different things.

25 MR. LEVENSON: My point is if you're going to ask

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1 those questions, I'm going to insist respectfully that
2 anyone who is not a party to this action step out of
3 the room because everyone who is in the room, counsel
4 or parties, are bound by whatever agreements were made,
5 whether they're aware of them or not.

6 MR. BELL: Well, who in here is not a party?

7 MR. LEVENSON: Well, Mr. Thomas, I don't believe.

8 MR. BELL: Mr. Thomas and--

9 MR. JACKSON: Terry's mother.

10 MR. LEVENSON: Terry's mother is not a party to
11 the action.

12 MR. BELL: Do you want to step out for a second.

13 (Mr. Shawn Thomas and Ms. Velma Brown Whitley exit
14 the conference room.)

15 MR. LEVENSON: And let me just further perfect the
16 record. It should be evident to everyone in the room
17 that if this deposition were ever filed as a matter of
18 public record and this information were spread upon the
19 public record, not only would Deanna and Shawn's
20 personal safety be in jeopardy but so would the remains
21 of Mr. Brown be in jeopardy. So that's--so it's--

22 MR. BELL: How would their personal safety be--

23 MR. LEVENSON: I'm not going to defend myself.

24 You know, this wouldn't be hard to figure out that
25 people are going to descend upon that location, David,

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1 if they find out what it is that we privately in this
2 room know, okay. That's--you may disagree with me.

3 MR. BELL: Well, Louis, it's publicly known
4 that--where she lives.

5 MR. LEVENSON: That is correct. That statement I
6 agree with.

7 MR. BELL: It is publicly known that Mr. Brown's
8 remains are at that location.

9 MR. LEVENSON: No, it is not. Now, you show me
10 something that reflects that and I'll--

11 MR. BELL: I'll tell you, I wasn't a part of the
12 agreement but I very vividly remember the day that the
13 removal occurred and there were TV cameras. I happened
14 to be driving by there that day and there were TV
15 cameras outside on Silver Bluff Road that day.

16 MR. LEVENSON: That may be. I don't disagree with
17 what you just said but you point me to a public recital
18 of what it is as to the temporary resting place of Mr.
19 Brown and I will correct my statement. I don't believe
20 there is one; there is no public record of that. And
21 that's what we were--what we agreed to and were bound
22 to observe.

23 MR. BELL: There have been newspaper accounts and
24 there were TV accounts.

25 MR. LEVENSON: There may have been helicopters

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1 flying over for all I know, David, but that doesn't
2 change the representation I just made and I think we
3 are bound by our representations to the Court,
4 regardless of what a media outlet may do about it.

5 MR. ROSEN: Lewis, I think there's court order
6 that restrains the lawyers from disclosing it, even if
7 everybody in the world knows about it.

8 MR. LEVENSON: That's what I just said, Robert.
9 And there's an order and an agreement both. But David
10 may be right. Media people may have been out on the
11 street when it happened but it doesn't change what we
12 as officers of the Court and parties are bound to
13 observe.

14 MR. ROSEN: But as a court order it's a matter of
15 public record so, you know, if anybody wants to violate
16 it they can go ahead and do it. Just wait for the
17 result, you know.

18 MR. LEVENSON: So anyway, respectfully, you know,
19 she'll answer your question now that we are just
20 parties and lawyers in this room. But I think that we
21 have to be careful what we expose Deanna and her
22 husband and the remains of Mr. Brown to by our actions.

23 Q. [Mr. Jackson] My question was: who is paying
24 Colonel Lee?

25 A. I don't know who's paying him.

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1 Q. And--

2 MR. BELL: And as soon as you get off of that
3 subject let us know because--

4 MR. JACKSON: Okay.

5 MR. BELL: --the two individuals can come back in.

6 Q. [Mr. Jackson] Do you see Colonel Lee on a regular
7 basis?

8 A. Not regular but I do see him, yes.

9 Q. Is he one of several security people at your
10 residence?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Who are the others?

13 A. Mr. Carlos Jones; Carol Anderson I think her last
14 name is; and Mr. Ernest Hobson.

15 Q. How do you spell that, please?

16 A. H-O-B-S-O-N.

17 Q. Hobson, okay. Are they--are these security people
18 all employed by a security company or are they employed by
19 someone else or do you know?

20 A. I don't know who they're employed by.

21 Q. Did you--had you arranged through some security
22 company for their presence?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Has someone else done so for your--in your behalf?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. How is it that they have come to be the security
2 at your residence?

3 A. We asked them to come there.

4 Q. So you--when you say we, who is we?

5 A. We, my husband and family and my brothers and
6 sisters.

7 Q. Now, how did you choose these individuals, Colonel
8 Lee, Carlos James, Carol Anderson and Ernest Hobson as--

9 A. Other than Mr. Hobson, they--other than Mr. Hobson
10 and Ms. Anderson, they worked for my dad.

11 Q. And does Colonel Lee oversee the other security
12 people by virtue of being named Colonel or is that just--

13 A. That's just--that's his title. That's his title;
14 that's not a title I gave him for that reason.

15 Q. Do you know of--

16 MR. JACKSON: I think we can invite everybody else
17 back in.

18 Q. [Mr. Jackson] Unless Officer Sterling has any
19 relationship to your house. Does--

20 A. I'm sorry?

21 Q. Officer Sterling, he doesn't have any relationship
22 to your house, does he?

23 A. Officer Sterling.

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. No.

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1 [Mr. Shawn Thomas and Ms. Velma Brown Whitley
2 enter the conference room.]
3 MR. BELL: Lewis, do you contend that those
4 questions got into the interment?
5 MR. LEVENSON: I believe her answer did, yes.
6 MR. BELL: Just the name of the security guards at
7 the place, because that--those were identified before
8 you raised the point. The only thing I understood you
9 objected to was the question concerning who paid for
10 their services. And I think she said she didn't know.
11 So my question to you is, is there anything that was
12 disclosed that you believe is covered by--
13 MR. LEVENSON: Yes, I do.
14 MR. BELL: Did you tell us--
15 MR. LEVENSON: I think the answer--
16 MR. BELL: So--
17 MR. LEVENSON: I think she indicated that Colonel
18 Lee was there protecting--I think the words were
19 gravesite or words to that effect. So it wouldn't
20 take--it wouldn't take, you know, a brain surgeon to
21 figure out what gravesite they're talking about.
22 MR. BELL: Just so that we understand, nobody can
23 be in violation of the order. You understand that
24 that's the portion of her testimony that you believe is
25 covered by a confidentiality agreement.

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1 MR. LEVENSON: I think it--I believe that that and
2 other related issues--the fact that Colonel Lee is
3 protecting the property along with the names that the
4 witness testified to would lead a reasonable person to
5 figure out what it is that's going on there which would
6 create a potential violation of the order and harm or
7 risk of harm to my clients, her husband and most
8 importantly--actually, that's not necessarily most
9 importantly. Equally importantly, the remains of James
10 Brown. We took great pains to create this with
11 approval of the Court and with the consent of Robert's
12 client who had an arguable interest in the disposition
13 of Mr. Brown's remains. And so that was my concern and
14 I still have that concern.
15 MR. JACKSON: Madame Court Reporter, could I ask
16 that you take from the words Colonel Lee when I first
17 asked them through this last statement today and seal
18 that portion of the record separately. Thank you.
19 MR. LEVENSON: Do you have any idea as to how much
20 longer you're going to be, sir?
21 MR. JACKSON: I'd say 30 minutes to an hour.
22 Would you like to take a break or recess for lunch? I
23 don't know what time it is.
24 MR. BELL: It's eleven o'clock. Let's try to
25 finish before lunch.

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1 MR. LEVENSON: Okay. Let's move through then as
2 quickly as possible.
3 MR. RICHTER: And, folks, just for scheduling
4 purposes--this is Ronnie Richter. I probably have ten
5 minutes, maybe 15.
6 MR. ROSEN: Yeah. I've probably got 10 or 15
7 myself. This is Robert Rosen.
8 Q. [Mr. Jackson] Ms. Thomas--
9 THE WITNESS: Excuse me for a second.
10 [Off record momentarily.]
11 Q. [Mr. Jackson] You in your prior testimony
12 mentioned that you and your dad started Deanna Inc.
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. What did your dad do in relationship to Deanna
15 Inc.?
16 A. He had his lawyer at the time, Mr. Reginald
17 Simmons, just form the corporation for me.
18 Q. Did your--so he--did he pay Mr. Simmons to do
19 that?
20 A. Yes, I assume he did.
21 Q. When was the corporation formed?
22 A. In the early '90s.
23 Q. And what state was it formed in?
24 A. South Carolina.
25 Q. Was it ever qualified to do business in Georgia?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. When was that?
3 A. I don't exactly know when.
4 Q. In the early '90s likewise?
5 A. No, not that soon.
6 Q. Not that soon. Would it be about the same time it
7 was formed or you--
8 A. No. Later.
9 Q. Later. How much later?
10 A. I don't exactly know the date.
11 Q. Well, can you give me an approximation.
12 A. No, actually I can't 'cause I don't exactly know
13 when, like I said. It's been done since early '90s.
14 Q. Deanna Inc. owns T&T Transport Company; is that
15 right?
16 A. Transportation, yes.
17 Q. Transportation Company. And that's out on Sandbar
18 Ferry Road here in Augusta?
19 A. Yes, it is.
20 Q. How long has T&T Transportation Company been in
21 business?
22 A. A couple years, about two years.
23 Q. And--
24 A. Yeah. T&T about two years.
25 Q. And then you also said Value Furniture Company &

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Appliance?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long has it been in business?

A. A year.

Q. One year?

A. Yes.

Q. And does Deanna Inc. own any other businesses other than T&T Transportation Company and Value Furniture & Appliance?

A. No.

Q. Who are the officers--excuse me. Is Deanna Inc., I assume, a regular corporation? Does it have a board of directors and officers?

A. No. It--well, officers, yeah.

Q. Who are the officers?

A. I am president and my mother is secretary.

Q. Does it have directors?

A. No.

Q. Did your father ever have an office or a directorship in that company?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever invest any of his money in Deanna Inc.?

A. No.

Q. Where did the money for Deanna Inc. assets--I

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A. Actually, it was an entertainment corporation prior to more than two years ago, but T&T started about close to two.

Q. Do you still use Deanna Inc. as an entertainment company?

A. Yes.

Q. And what kind of entertainment company do you do? Do you do like your father and go on the road?

A. If I host a show or do an appearance I am paid that way.

Q. So--okay. So you're paid by having--hosting a show, they actually would write a check to Deanna Inc.?

A. Yes. If I tell them that's who they need to write it to, yes.

Q. Did your father ever have shows with you and then have the payment go to Deanna Inc.?

A. I have been on the road with him and he paid Deanna Inc., yes.

Q. When you say he paid Deanna Inc., would it possibly have been a payment from one of his affiliated companies such as James Brown Enterprises?

A. Yes.

Q. Did James Brown Enterprises ever pay for your costumes while you were on the show--on the road?

A. Not to my knowledge, no.

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assume it has assets--with T&T Transportation and Value Furniture Company & Appliances--where did it obtain its money to acquire its assets?

A. Bank loan.

Q. A bank loan?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was--which bank is that?

A. First Bank.

Q. And where is that located?

A. Walton Way.

Q. And is there a particular officer that approved the loan?

A. Cedric Johnson.

Q. Between the early '90s and two years ago when T&T Transportation Company was started and about a year ago with the Value Furniture & Appliances, what did Deanna Inc. from the early '90s do as far as a business?

A. Well, actually, we--in the early '90s?

Q. You said it was formed--

A. Entertainment.

Q. Entertainment?

A. Yes. When I did--if I did something, I was paid, Deanna Incorporated, if I did some entertainment work.

Q. And so it was in--it was your entertainment corporation prior to about two years ago?

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Q. Who paid for your costumes?

A. If I were--my dad every now and then may buy me something, just being his daughter.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. But I would have my own clothes.

Q. You were saying that you didn't--if I recall your testimony correctly and please forgive me if I don't and you correct me. I recall that you said you didn't actually discover the cashier's checks that you maintain were put in the safe?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Did you ever see the cashier's checks?

A. I saw an envelope. I didn't see the actual check.

Q. You saw an envelope?

A. Yes.

Q. And who represented to you what was in the envelope?

A. I can't remember exactly who it was, honestly. But I know they went to the vault.

Q. You know the envelope went to the vault?

A. Yeah. The cashier's checks went to the vault. I don't know exactly who discovered them or who actually put them in. I don't remember.

Q. Well, let me see what you do remember. You remember an envelope?

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1 A. Uh-huh.
2 Q. Where did the envelope come from?
3 A. I don't know.
4 Q. Did it come from within the house?
5 A. I assume so, yes.
6 Q. Who had--did you ever have your hands on the
7 envelope?
8 A. No.
9 Q. So you saw the envelope laying on a counter or
10 somebody else had it in their hand?
11 A. I can't remember exactly.
12 Q. How do you know what was in the envelope?
13 A. I was told that it was checks in the envelope and
14 I can't remember who told me, exactly who, that night or
15 when it was.
16 Q. When you say that night, was this on the 26th?
17 A. Yeah. I'm thinking that night. I'm not for sure
18 but I believe that was the night.
19 Q. And did you actually see someone put that envelope
20 in the safe?
21 A. No.
22 Q. So when you--
23 A. Wait a minute. No. I think I saw--I don't--I'm
24 not sure. I'm not sure. I know we put a lot of stuff in
25 the safe so I'm not sure.

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1 Q. So in actuality you're not sure whether that
2 envelope got in the safe or didn't get in the safe?
3 A. No. I was told it was in the safe.
4 Q. But you were told by somebody else. You can't
5 remember who it was?
6 A. Right.
7 Q. So that would be hearsay. You don't have any
8 personal knowledge then other than what somebody else told
9 you?
10 A. No.
11 Q. You also said that Mr. Dallas tried to open the
12 safe before the Dixie Lock & Safe as well as the private
13 investigators tried. And you were there at the time. I
14 believe this was on the 26th. My question is did it appear
15 that Mr. Dallas or the private investigators with the
16 combinations they had that it appeared genuine they could
17 not get in the safe?
18 A. They had the combination. They just had a hard
19 time trying to work with the dial.
20 Q. So they couldn't open the safe with the
21 combination, at least as far as their knowledge of safes?
22 A. Right. But when the Dixie Lock man came there, he
23 gave him the combination and the Dixie Lock man opened it
24 right up.
25 Q. So they didn't know how--they had the numbers.

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1 They just didn't know whether to go right or left or--
2 A. Right.
3 Q. And after the 26th through the middle of March
4 only you and your sister Yamma had the safe combo; is that
5 right? And Dixie Lock & Safe.
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. When was it--as I understand it the--you don't
8 know what the other documents in the safe might be, other
9 than what might show on the videotape?
10 A. Right.
11 Q. When they videotaped the contents of the safe did
12 they remove the items and put them back in the safe so that
13 they could get a clear videotape or did they just take a
14 photograph and the items were not removed on the 26th?
15 A. Some items came out and went back in. Not all
16 items came out.
17 Q. Are you aware of your sister Yamma going into the
18 house without Mr. Dallas or Mr. Cannon or--and the security
19 guard, Mr. Sterling?
20 A. No.
21 Q. Are you aware that she went to the house with--
22 A. On--she went with me on a day to clean, yes.
23 Q. Were you with your sister during the whole period
24 of time that you cleaned?
25 A. For the most part, yes.

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1 Q. What part wasn't--you weren't with her?
2 A. I mean sometimes she might have been in the
3 bathroom cleaning and I may have been someplace else
4 cleaning.
5 [Mr. David Bell exits the conference room.]
6 Q. Was there ever an opportunity that she would have
7 had enough time in the laundry room to open the safe with
8 the combination and then shut it back up without your
9 presence?
10 A. It could but I--that's not to my knowledge.
11 Q. And then I think you've testified somewhere in the
12 two-week period following January 2nd, 2007, Yamma came one
13 time. Was that the time you're referring to that--
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. --you accompanied her?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Do you know if she ever came an additional time
18 without your presence?
19 A. No.
20 Q. Have you ever heard that she might have come
21 additional times?
22 A. No.
23 Q. Do you know the whereabouts of the Hubert Humphrey
24 memorial scrapbook that your father and Hubert Humphrey had
25 made together?

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A. No.

Q. Are you familiar with the scrapbook that your father had pertaining to his experiences with Hubert Humphrey?

A. No.

Q. You don't know about that scrapbook?

A. No.

Q. Are you aware of the whereabouts of any of his watches or jewelry that he--

A. They should be in the home.

MR. LEVENSON: Why don't you let him finish the full question.

THE WITNESS: Oh, I thought he was done. Sorry.

Q. [Mr. Jackson] When you say they should be in the home--

A. That's where I last seen them.

[Mr. David Bell enters the conference room.]

Q. Do you or your sister or any other member of the family that you've heard of have possession of the lifetime achievement award from the Grammys?

A. No.

Q. You said that you didn't see that. Was that--excuse me. You said you didn't see some award from the Grammys when you went back to the house in September of this year.

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Q. What are those?

MR. LEVENSON: Well, the question is before December the 25th.

MR. JACKSON: No. After December 25th.

MR. LEVENSON: After.

Q. [Mr. Jackson] After December 25th?

A. Gifts that people have given to me.

Q. What has been given to you and by whom?

A. I don't know. I mean I've gotten cards, I've gotten different little plaques. A lot of little, different things that's been given to me.

Q. How about personal memorabilia your sister Yanna may have that you've seen that she acquired after December 25th, 2006?

A. I don't know.

Q. The--when you said you went through the house on September 17th, 2007, you said that there was some bedroom furniture, a dresser and a bed, that appeared to be missing. Would that--an explanation for that be that that was the bed that Little Man or his mother used and was put in the POD?

A. The bedroom furniture that I was speaking of was the room that had some of Little Man's things in it, yes.

Q. And were you there when those items were transferred and sealed into the POD for disposition to--

A. No. I don't know where they are.

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A. That was--yes.

Q. Is that the lifetime achievement award from the Grammys?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know the whereabouts of the cap and honors awarded by Paine University to your father?

A. Do I know?

Q. Yes. Do you know where they may be?

A. No.

MR. LEVENSON: Is this the one that was--are you referring to the one conferred at the memorial service or the one conferred previously?

MR. JACKSON: The one conferred previously by Paine University.

MR. LEVENSON: That's the better question for you because there was some--

A. At the--yeah. At--now, which one?

MR. LEVENSON: Well, he's talking about the one before the memorial service.

A. No.

Q. [Mr. Jackson] Do you or your sister or any member of your family to your knowledge have any personal memorabilia of your father that was acquired after December 25th, 2006, the day he died?

A. I have things that were given to me.

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Q. You don't know where they are?

A. No.

Q. Do you know whether they're in the POD?

A. I don't know where they are.

Q. But those would be the items that--

A. Yes.

Q. --you were talking about would be the bedroom suite furniture for Little Man?

A. Yes.

Q. And/or his mother?

A. Yes.

Q. You also mentioned some furniture in the front room. Is that the first room that you walk into that used--that was the old porch of your dad's house that has now been added on or is that--

A. Yes.

Q. What furniture in the front room did you notice was missing? Can you describe it for me, please.

A. It's like an antique desk. When you walked in the front door it would be right to the right.

Q. And an antique desk. What--when you say it's antique, could you give me an approximate age?

A. It's wood. I don't know an age. It's wood, mahogany wood.

Q. It's mahogany. You also described some rewards

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1 and I think we've talked about the Grammy. Could you give
2 me any other descriptions of anything you maintain may be
3 missing from the house that was there when you first saw it
4 and was not there or in the same place on September 17th,
5 2007?

6 A. As I said before, I know an NAACP award. It was
7 on the wall and I remember a Grammy award that was on the
8 wall that was not on the wall when we went on September
9 17th.

10 Q. And which walls are we talking about so that I--

11 A. It would be called the family den area.

12 Q. The family den area where--

13 A. That's the room right off that--the next room you
14 walk into once you walk through the foyer. It's the next
15 room you walk into.

16 Q. Oh, in the family den room. That's where there's
17 a little bar on the left?

18 A. Yes. You know about the bar.

19 Q. Well, and the kitchen on the right. And you
20 mentioned two cars were sold. Which two cars are you
21 referring to?

22 A. Lincoln Navigator and a 300 Chrysler.

23 Q. Your lawyer has filed a motion to remove the
24 personal representatives of the estate. Could you tell me
25 all the facts that you know of that support the motion to

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1 remove my clients.

2 A. No. I can't say all the facts.

3 Q. Well, tell me the facts as you know them.

4 A. In terms of reasoning?

5 Q. Yes. What has--what are the facts that support
6 the motion that you know of?

7 A. They've already come out in court, a lot of them.

8 Q. Well, could you tell me which ones that you
9 maintain are--that support the motion from your standpoint?

10 A. That they have not held up to their fiduciary duty
11 as trustees or personal representatives to handle the
12 business of James Brown.

13 Q. That's a very broad statement. What is their
14 fiduciary duties or duty that they have not met?

15 MR. LEVENSON: If you know. And this is not based
16 on anything that your attorney has told you.

17 A. Well, things that we have asked for, accounting,
18 is not--has not been addressed properly.

19 Q. [Mr. Jackson] Okay, accounting.

20 A. And just from the--from the initial reasoning of
21 me having to sign a paper because Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon
22 felt like Mr. Bradley was not--did not have the whatever
23 effect that he needed to be a trustee led me to believe that
24 there was some problem there. So--

25 Q. Did they--what problem--I'm sorry. I didn't mean

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1 to interrupt you. Were you finished?

2 A. Well, that was--that was a reasoning there, that
3 they didn't trust him at the time enough to ask me to sign a
4 paper to be a trustee. So they didn't trust him and, you
5 know, they worked with him in terms of this. That let me
6 know that I didn't need to trust him.

7 Q. The accounting and they led you to believe that
8 they didn't trust Mr. Bradley.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Any other facts that you maintain support the
11 motion to remove?

12 A. When they was at my home they--and I say they. I
13 mean Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon. Wanted my sister and I to
14 pretty much--me and my sister being Yamma--to be a part of
15 the trust and wanted to exclude our brothers and sisters and
16 we did not agree with that. We told them that we were a
17 family and we were working together. So when they offered
18 to give me and my sister percentages on income--we don't
19 know which income or what--we turned it down because we did
20 not want to exclude our brothers and sisters.

21 Q. What percentages?

22 A. Five percent per person.

23 Q. And you don't know of what income?

24 A. Don't know. They said everything so that--we
25 don't know what everything is.

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1 Q. Who made this statement?

2 A. Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas.

3 Q. And when was this? Was this December 26th or was
4 it some time later?

5 A. This was December 27th.

6 Q. 27th. And who all was present during this meeting
7 with Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas in addition to you? Was your
8 sister Yamma there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Anybody else?

11 A. My husband Shawn Thomas, her husband Darren.

12 MR. LEVENSON: Say who her is.

13 A. Yamma's husband--exhusband Darren.

14 Q. [Mr. Jackson] And were Mr. Thomas and Yamma's
15 exhusband Darren--when I asked you if they were there, were
16 they involved in the conversations or witnesses to the
17 conversation or--

18 A. Witnesses to the conversation, yes.

19 Q. When you say accounting, what--as one of the
20 reasons or factual bases to--that you seek the removal of
21 Mr. Cannon--I mean Mr. Dallas and Mr. Bradley, what
22 accounting are you referring to? Accounting of what?

23 A. Accounting of my dad's business.

24 Q. And what--is this--when you say dad's business,
25 can you be specific. Are you talking about--

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1 A. All of his business.
2 Q. All of his business?
3 A. All of his business.
4 Q. For what period of time?
5 A. From the time it started. Well, I'll tell you.
6 From at least dated back to when this trust was begun August
7 of 2000.
8 Q. So you're looking for an accounting of the trust?
9 A. I'm looking for--we would like to see an
10 accounting of all his business.
11 Q. All his business?
12 A. Not just the trust.
13 Q. Can you--when you--all of his business, is that
14 his music business?
15 A. Yes, yes.
16 Q. Is it also accounting of his interests, say for
17 example, in--I understand there was House of Blues stock.
18 Does he receive any income or do you know from the House of
19 Blues?
20 A. That's why I say all his business because I don't
21 know.
22 Q. Do you--other than the accounting are you
23 maintaining that the--an accounting prior--are you
24 maintaining the personal representatives need to account for
25 anything from the date of their appointment forward? I

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1 think I understand your--that you want an accounting of all
2 his business from 2000 forward for the trust.
3 A. For all his business including the trust.
4 Q. Including the trust. And what have you--have you
5 gotten any information or provided any information as far as
6 that accounting?
7 A. Not completely.
8 Q. Not completely. In what regard do you contend
9 it's incomplete?
10 A. It hasn't been done completely. We have--I have
11 not seen an accounting of all of his business in complete.
12 Q. Can you be more specific as to what--
13 A. Where the money went; who was disbursed money;
14 what was earned here; what was spent here; et cetera.
15 Q. Now, as far as--have you been provided everything
16 that--as far as the trust accounting goes?
17 A. No.
18 Q. What in respect to the trust accounting do you
19 contend has not been provided?
20 A. That would be a legal question that I really can't
21 answer but I know that we have not received everything.
22 Q. What would you say you're looking for just in
23 layman's terms that you think is missing as far as the trust
24 material that's been provided?
25 A. As far as the trust material--

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1 Q. Yeah.
2 A. --provided?
3 Q. Right.
4 A. The original.
5 Q. The original trust document?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Anything else in addition to the original trust
8 document that hasn't been provided as far as the irrevocable
9 trust of 2000?
10 A. Well, no. But with the original you would know
11 what everything is; without the original you don't.
12 Q. Concerning the personal representatives, are you
13 seeking--this being after your father's death till today.
14 Are you seeking any additional information as to their
15 activities as far as personal representatives that you
16 haven't received for an accounting?
17 A. I think that's another legal question.
18 MR. LEVENSON: Just if you know, you know. If you
19 don't, you don't.
20 A. No. I can't say for sure.
21 Q. [Mr. Jackson] Tell me what you think then
22 that--if there's something missing that needs to be
23 provided.
24 A. Well, again, like I said, there are things missing
25 from the home. The original trust documents that we

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1 could--that we need to see.
2 Q. Have you covered what you maintain--you said
3 missing but I think your testimony was that you didn't know
4 whether they were missing or not, that you just didn't see
5 them on September 17th. Do you maintain now that they were
6 missing actually from the home?
7 A. I did not see them.
8 Q. You didn't see them. And we're talking about the
9 beds and bedroom suite for Little Man and--
10 A. And a couple tables, yes.
11 Q. And a couple of tables and the antique desk in the
12 foyer as you come in.
13 A. Those are just things that I can remember right
14 now. There may be others.
15 Q. There may be others. Have you compiled a list of
16 what is missing?
17 A. No, I have not compiled a list. I was told that
18 stuff was there from the storage and there are things that
19 I'm aware that was in the storage that I did not see at the
20 home. For example, an organ, a red organ, the Godfather
21 organ, that we have questioned about and no one knew the
22 answer.
23 Q. There's two organs in what I would call the big
24 bar room that I've seen, one of which is now black. Could
25 that have been recovered?

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A. No.

Q. Is there a third organ that you're looking for, the red organ, and where was it located in the home?

A. It was actually located in the storage.

Q. Oh, in storage?

A. Yes.

Q. And what storage?

A. Storage in Augusta.

Q. In Augusta?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And the organ in storage in Augusta, can you tell me 'cause I just don't know--is there more than one storage unit?

A. There was more than one storage, yes.

Q. Which storage unit in Augusta--

A. I don't exactly know. I know that there was more than one storage. There were three storage buildings, if I'm not mistaken.

Q. And you--

A. All of the contents of those things, have not been--have not been--we have not seen anything on that.

Q. So you haven't seen the contents of the three storage buildings in Augusta and you say one of them contained a red organ?

A. Yes.

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Q. Can you tell me the size of the organ that you maintain may be missing?

A. It's a pretty big organ. It's red leather and it has Godfather on it. I know it was dear and precious to him.

Q. It has Godfather on it?

A. Yes.

Q. Any other items that you maintain in the--that may be missing other than you've already testified to in storage units in Augusta?

A. We have not, again, received anything that--any type of inventory to know what was there. And that's part of what we have asked for, inventory.

Q. You testified earlier about your father had the marriage to Tomi Rae annulled.

A. Yes.

Q. When--tell me when that was and what you know about it that that occurred.

A. Well, I know that there was a problem at the home and from that problem that occurred at the home Dad had his marriage annulled after that. And the reason I know that is because he said that that's what he was doing.

Q. And do you know if he went to a court to do that or what did he say?

A. I don't exactly know how it was done.

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Q. Just so I'm clear, you're talking about the marriage Tomi Rae had with--that was ceremonial with your father--

A. Yes.

Q. --James Brown that was annulled?

A. Yes.

MR. JACKSON: Might I have just a moment to confer with my clients, please.

[Brief recess.]

Q. [Mr. Jackson] Did you or someone else at your direction remove any band members' uniforms from the James Brown bus lines?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did Danny Ray get any capes--

MR. LEVENSON: Tomi Rae.

MR. JACKSON: Huh?

A. Uh-uh.

MR. LEVENSON: Tomi Rae.

MR. JACKSON: No. It's Danny Ray.

Q. [Mr. Jackson] Did Danny Ray, to your knowledge, have any capes that were used by your father or owned by your father?

A. I was told that he did keep the uniform, did keep the capes, because that's what Dad wanted him to do.

Q. And just so everybody--

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MR. RICHTER: I couldn't hear. Could you repeat that answer.

A. Dad did instruct Mr. Danny Ray to keep the capes or keep some capes. I don't know which capes.

Q. [Mr. Jackson] And this was after--Danny Ray kept these after your father's death?

A. He's kept them, yeah.

Q. For the record, who is Danny Ray?

A. The MC for the James Brown Show and Dad's friend for more than 50 years.

Q. The furniture--when we refer to Pop's house, do you know who we're referring to?

A. Yes.

Q. That's Mr. Brown's father; right?

A. Yes.

Q. The furniture in Pop's house was taken by someone. Do you know who?

A. Oh, really. No, I don't.

Q. Shortly after Mr. Brown's death you and your mother took a long vacation in the Carribean; is that correct?

A. No.

Q. No. Well, did your mother go to the Carribean?

A. No. Maybe she did. I don't know. I don't know my mother's business.

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1 Q. Have you traveled with your sister on--throughout
2 the US since your father's death?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Who provided the funds or did you provide the
5 funds to do that traveling?
6 A. I bought my ticket.
7 Q. And with what funds did you buy your ticket?
8 A. My funds that I work for every day.
9 Q. And you stayed at five-star hotels in quality
10 places that were highly expensive, did you not?
11 A. I don't know what you consider a quality hotel. I
12 stayed at a hotel.
13 Q. How much was--
14 A. I don't know.
15 Q. --the nightly rate?
16 A. I don't remember.
17 Q. Well, give me a range. Can you?
18 A. I have no idea.
19 Q. You have no idea what you paid for them?
20 A. I paid for them but I can't remember what they
21 cost.
22 Q. Can you tell me the names of the hotels you stayed
23 at?
24 A. Where?
25 Q. In New York when you were up there for the

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1 depositions in New York City.
2 A. For what depositions?
3 Q. For all of them. How many depositions did you
4 attend in New York?
5 A. I've attended two.
6 Q. For the first one where did you stay?
7 A. The first one I stayed at the Sheraton--no. I
8 stayed at the Crowne Plaza.
9 Q. And is that in Manhattan?
10 A. No, it's not.
11 Q. Where is it located?
12 A. It's in Flushing.
13 Q. Flushing. And for your second deposition where
14 did you stay?
15 A. Crowne Plaza.
16 Q. In Flushing?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Did you--in addition to attending depositions,
19 have you taken any other trips since your father's death?
20 A. Yes, I have.
21 Q. Tell us where you've traveled, please.
22 A. I have traveled to California. I have traveled to
23 the Bahamas. I have traveled to New York.
24 Q. Any other places?
25 A. Not that I can remember.

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1 Q. When was the trip to California?
2 A. I've done several trips to California.
3 Q. How many trips to California when you say several?
4 A. I don't know how many.
5 Q. Were those trips for personal--pleasure or
6 business?
7 A. Both.
8 Q. Both. Which--how many trips were for business to
9 California?
10 A. Each time it's pleasure and business.
11 Q. Each time is pleasure--okay. What is the business
12 aspects of the trips to California?
13 A. Business aspects.
14 Q. Yes.
15 A. Sitting down talking with people about my career.
16 Q. Your career in music--
17 A. Entertainment.
18 Q. --or entertainment? Entertainment, okay. You've
19 traveled to the Bahamas. What was the purpose of that trip
20 or trips?
21 A. That was pleasure.
22 Q. Where did you go in the Bahamas?
23 A. Nassau.
24 Q. And where did you stay?
25 A. Atlantis.

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1 Q. How long were you in the Bahamas?
2 A. About four days.
3 Q. Did you stay in a room or a suite?
4 A. Small suite, I guess.
5 MR. LEVENSON: I assume, Stan, that Ms. Thomas'
6 personal spending habits are discoverable and likely to
7 lead to other discovery and relevant to this case in
8 some manner. Obviously we've got probably
9 \$5,000-an-hour-worth of lawyers' time sitting in this
10 room and we're willing to certainly allow you to ask
11 any questions subject to the stipulations we've made.
12 But there is some limit to what discovery is entitled.
13 MR. JACKSON: I think I've read the rules some
14 time in my life, Mr. Levenson.
15 MR. LEVENSON: I'm not going to allow her to
16 answer questions about her personal finances unless you
17 can make some showing that it's arguably discoverable
18 and/or relevant to this case. And I would be happy to
19 adjourn the deposition and get direction from the Court
20 if you're going to inquire into Mr. and Ms. Thomas'
21 personal matters.
22 MR. JACKSON: Well, there's been questions of Sky
23 Miles that we're trying to figure out.
24 MR. LEVENSON: Well, then why don't you ask her if
25 she's used Sky Miles that belong to the estate, if

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1 that's the issue?

2 MR. JACKSON: Well, I was--I'm getting to that. I
3 want to find out the number of trips and then find
4 out--so I mean I'm--that's where I'm headed so now
5 everybody knows.

6 Q. [Mr. Jackson] So you've been to New York twice.
7 You've been to the Bahamas once?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Since your father's death. And you've been to
10 California how many times?

11 A. I don't know.

12 Q. Multiple times?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And the--did you receive any assistance on those
15 travels from any of your family members, say, your sister
16 Yamma?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you have access to any Sky Miles that your
19 father had?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Who--do you know who would have had access to your
22 father's Sky Miles account with the airlines?

23 A. Charles Bobbitt and of course the personal
24 representatives.

25 Q. Did you make any loans to your mother for her

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1 travels or any advances?

2 MR. LEVENSON: The question is did she personally
3 pay any part of her mother's travel expenses.

4 MR. JACKSON: Yes.

5 MR. LEVENSON: You can answer that question.

6 A. I may have.

7 Q. [Mr. Jackson] When you say you may have, do you
8 know how much you--

9 A. No.

10 MR. BELL: How much longer have you got, Stan?

11 MR. JACKSON: Two or three minutes, at most. I
12 think I'm about through. Matter of fact, I think I am
13 through.

14 MR. LEVENSON: Robert, did you want to ask any
15 questions? Robert. I guess not. Anyone else have any
16 other questions for Ms. Thomas while she is present and
17 ready to be deposed?

18 MS. LEWIS: I do.

19 MR. RICHTER: And this is Ronnie Richter, Lewis.
20 I do have a few questions if no one else there has.

21 MR. LEVENSON: Well, go ahead. Why don't you do
22 that, Ronnie, and then Ms. Lewis will handle that when
23 you're done.

24 MR. RICHTER: All right.

25 //

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EXAMINATION

1 BY MR. RICHTER:

2 Q. Ma'am, would you consider your father a smart
3 business man? I'm sorry?

4 A. A smart business man.

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. I think he was very knowledgeable.

7 Q. Was he--did he understand how and when he got
8 paid?

9 A. I can't answer that.

10 Q. Do you know if he knew what he got paid?

11 A. I can't answer that, either.

12 Q. Were you aware of any difficulty he had with the
13 IRS?

14 A. No, not--not to my knowledge.

15 Q. So you have no knowledge that at one point in time
16 he arguably owed the IRS upwards of \$20 million?

17 A. I don't know anything about that.

18 Q. Did he ever express to you any appreciation he had
19 for Mr. Cannon for his work in resolving whatever issues he
20 had with the IRS?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. What was your father's relationship with David
23 Cannon?

24 A. Business relationship.

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1 Q. Did he ever express to you that he considered Mr.
2 Cannon a friend?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did he ever express to you any affection for Mr.
5 Cannon?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What is your knowledge of the services that Mr.
8 Cannon provided for your father during his lifetime?

9 A. Business manager, accountant.

10 Q. Did anyone else perform those same functions, to
11 your knowledge?

12 A. Although Mr. Dallas was his lawyer, he had
13 business--he was working with Mr. Cannon closely, as well as
14 Mr. Bradley when he was there. He was a business manager as
15 well.

16 Q. Did your father maintain an office in his home?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did he maintain an office outside of his home?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Early in your deposition I think you were asked
21 questions about your father's understanding of his estate
22 and what his intentions were. Do you remember those
23 questions?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you believe that your father, at or near the

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1 time of his death, understood what was in his estate or what
2 would become a part of his estate upon his death?
3 A. No.
4 Q. Do you think he knew what he owned?
5 A. No.
6 Q. Why do you say that?
7 A. Not completely.
8 Q. Why do you say that? What is the basis upon which
9 you say that?
10 A. Well, he felt as though he owned, for example,
11 Seventh Decade.
12 Q. How do you know that?
13 A. Just in hearing conversations. Not necessarily
14 talking directly to me but in conversations.
15 Q. Is it your testimony that your father told you at
16 some point in time that he owned Seventh Decade?
17 A. I said that he did not tell me directly. I heard
18 conversation.
19 Q. From whom did you hear that your father had an
20 understanding that he owned Seventh Decade?
21 A. I heard him talk about it.
22 Q. And to whom was your father speaking?
23 A. My brother Darrell, Charles Bobbitt.
24 Q. What did he say to your brother regarding Seventh
25 Decade?

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1 A. I don't know what he said to my brother exactly.
2 Q. What did he say to anyone that led you to believe
3 that he was operating under the impression that he owned
4 Seventh Decade?
5 A. Well, in conversation.
6 Q. Were these conversations that you were a party to?
7 A. Yes. I did hear--
8 Q. Who were the parties to the conversation?
9 A. Yes. I did hear a conversation.
10 Q. Who were the parties to the conversation?
11 A. Darrell Brown and Charles Bobbitt.
12 Q. James Brown was not a party to the conversation?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. What--did you hear James Brown say anything
15 regarding Seventh Decade?
16 A. Other than--I can't exactly remember exactly what
17 he said, but in conversation that's what I gathered.
18 Q. But, ma'am, I have to be more specific than what
19 you gathered in conversation. I'm asking you during any
20 conversation did you personally hear James Brown say
21 anything with respect to the ownership of Seventh Decade?
22 A. I can't exactly be sure of what he said. In
23 conversation that subject came up.
24 Q. Then your testimony is that you cannot say what he
25 said?

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1 A. Exactly, no.
2 Q. Was your father a strong-willed man?
3 A. In terms of?
4 Q. Was that his personality? How would you describe
5 his personality?
6 A. Yes, he was strong-willed.
7 Q. Would you consider your father a generous man?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Did your father ever tell you anything about
10 Seventh Decade, what it was or what it did?
11 A. No.
12 Q. Did he ever say anything to you about how he was
13 paid by Seventh Decade?
14 A. No. Not directly, no.
15 Q. Do you have any personal knowledge that David
16 Cannon took any property of your father's that he was not
17 entitled to?
18 A. I have not witnessed anything.
19 Q. Do you have any personal knowledge that David
20 Cannon received from your father a dollar that he was not
21 entitled to receive?
22 A. Not to my knowledge.
23 MR. RICHTER: That's all I have. Thank you.
24 MR. ROSEN: I have a few questions if it's my
25 turn. This is Robert Rosen.

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1 MR. LEVENSON: Sure. Go ahead, Robert.
2 MR. ROSEN: Do y'all want to take a break or do
3 you want me to go ahead?
4 MR. LEVENSON: No. We'd really like to finish as
5 soon as possible.
6 MR. ROSEN: Ms. Thomas, this is Robert Rosen. I
7 represent Toni Rae Brown.
8 THE WITNESS: Yes.
9 EXAMINATION
10 BY MR. ROSEN:
11 Q. When did you first meet her?
12 A. 1998.
13 Q. And what was she doing at that time?
14 A. She was at my house.
15 Q. And what was the occasion?
16 A. She came with Dad for--he was coming to see the
17 house that me and Shawn had just moved in.
18 Q. And at some point they were involved in a
19 relationship; correct?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. And when did their relationship begin?
22 A. I don't know.
23 Q. But at least by 1998 you were aware that they were
24 involved in a relationship?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Was it a monogamous relationship, to your
2 knowledge?
3 A. I don't know.
4 MS. LEWIS: Excuse me. Was that 1988 or '98?
5 THE WITNESS: '98.
6 Q. [Mr. Rosen] 1998. Were they living together?
7 A. No, not when I met her. No.
8 Q. Where was she living?
9 A. I don't know.
10 Q. Where was he living?
11 A. At 430 Douglas Drive, Beech Island.
12 Q. Beech Island. Is that the Beech Island house?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. Now, at some point they moved in together?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. When was that?
17 A. I don't know.
18 Q. And at some point she became pregnant?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. And did he consider when she was pregnant that
21 that was his child at that time?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And the child was named James Brown II; is that
24 right?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And was he happy about the birth of the child?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. Did he consider this child to be his son?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. At any time did he ever tell you that he did not
6 believe that James was not his son?
7 A. No.
8 Q. In other words, at no time did he ever deny that
9 he was the father of James Brown II?
10 A. The only thing he said on that matter to me was
11 that people believe that he is not. And that was it. He
12 never acknowledged to me that he didn't. He didn't say
13 that.
14 Q. Well, he always acted as if Little Man was his
15 son?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. And he referred to him as his son on numerous
18 occasions, both publicly and privately; correct?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Now, do you have an opinion about whether or not
21 he is his son?
22 A. No.
23 Q. Now, he and Tomi Rae were married on December
24 14th, 2001; is that correct?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Were you at the wedding?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. Where was the wedding?
4 A. At 430 Douglas Drive, Beech Island.
5 Q. And as far as you know, the marriage was duly
6 performed by Reverend Larry Fryer; correct?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. And there's a marriage license and certificate as
9 far as you know?
10 A. I don't know.
11 Q. Well, at the time did your father believe that he
12 was being legally married to Tomi Rae?
13 A. I don't know.
14 Q. Did he intend to be married?
15 A. Did he what?
16 Q. Did he intend to get married on that day when he
17 went through the ceremony?
18 MR. HARLING: Object to the form.
19 MR. JACKSON: Objection to the form. That's
20 outside the competency of this witness. But we object
21 to the form.
22 MR. ROSEN: I understand. But you can answer the
23 question.
24 Q. [Mr. Rosen] To your knowledge, did he intend to
25 be married on that day?

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1 MR. JACKSON: Renew my objection.
2 MR. HARLING: Same objection.
3 MR. LEVENSON: You can answer it if you know.
4 MR. ROSEN: But the witness is instructed to
5 answer.
6 MR. LEVENSON: I have instructed her, Robert, to
7 answer the question if she knows what her father's
8 intent was.
9 MR. ROSEN: Yes.
10 Q. [Mr. Rosen] Do you know the answer to that
11 question?
12 A. I don't know what his intent was. I know I saw
13 him marry her that day.
14 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that he went
15 through with a marriage ceremony without intending to be
16 married?
17 A. I don't know.
18 MR. HARLING: Object to the form.
19 Q. [Mr. Rosen] Do you have any reason to believe
20 that he went through a marriage ceremony and did not have
21 the intent to be married?
22 A. I don't know that either.
23 MR. JACKSON: I renew my objection.
24 MR. HARLING: Same objection.
25 MR. ROSEN: You can make the objections,

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gentlemen. But the witness still needs to answer.

MR. LEVENSON: But they have to make their objections, too, Robert. You know, and they've made it. Now, go ahead and answer it if you can.

A. I don't know.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Well, you know--you knew your father well, I assume.

MR. LEVENSON: Is that a question?

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Did you know him well?

MR. LEVENSON: Is that a tough question for you?

A. You know what, everybody knew him for as much as he allowed you to know him. That's all I can say.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] So you did not know him well?

A. I can't say that. I felt like I knew him well. My brother Terry may feel like he knows him well. A lot of people might say that but no one can say specifically that James Brown, they knew him well. No one can say that.

Q. I guess what I'm saying is--I'm only asking you.

A. No, no. I can say it for me but--no, no.

Q. You did not know him well? I mean either you did or you didn't. Do you feel like you knew your father?

A. Yeah, I knew him. I knew him well.

Q. Knowing your father as you did, do you believe he would have gone through a wedding ceremony that was a sham?

MR. HARLING: Objection to the form.

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A. Yes.

MR. LEVENSON: That's a different question. I'm going to object--

MR. ROSEN: Yes, it is.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Did they hold themselves out to the public as man and wife?

A. Yes.

Q. And as far as you know, did they both have the intent to be married to each other at that time?

MR. JACKSON: Renew our objections.

MR. HARLING: Same objection.

MR. LEVENSON: Answer the question if you can. Again, it's an intent question.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Answer the question.

A. I don't know.

Q. You don't know, okay. And did they live together after they were married?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did they live?

A. 430 Douglas Drive, Beech Island.

Q. And did they publicly live together as husband and wife?

A. Yes.

Q. As far as you know, did they consummate their marriage?

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MR. JACKSON: Object to the form.

MR. ROSEN: I understand. Answer the question.

MR. LEVENSON: Answer it if you can. Do you believe he would have gone through a wedding if he knew it was a sham, I think was the question.

A. He might. I don't know.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Did he ever say that he did?

A. Say that he did what?

Q. Married Tomi Rae as part of a sham or some kind of fraud?

A. No. He never told me that.

Q. Did he ever tell you that?

A. No, he never told me that.

Q. Now, did he seem happy at the wedding?

A. He seemed.

Q. Okay. Now, as far as you knew after the wedding, he was married to Tomi Rae?

A. Yes.

Q. And did they hold themselves out as husband and wife?

MR. HARLING: Object to the form.

A. Did they do what?

MR. LEVENSON: The question is did they--

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Did they tell people publicly that they were married?

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A. I do not know.

MR. ROSEN: Can we stipulate that they did?

MR. LEVENSON: No. We will not stipulate to that. She--this witness has no knowledge of that. It's not a joke. She's not going to establish any prima facie element of anybody's case unless she has personal knowledge of it. I mean, Robert, that's--I mean you can ask her if she knows.

MR. ROSEN: She's a member of the public. She--

MR. LEVENSON: She'll--

MR. ROSEN: --witnessed them holding themselves as husband and wife.

MR. LEVENSON: That's a different--consummation is an entirely different question, Robert. If you know the answer to the question then you answer it.

A. I don't know.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Okay. Now, did they continue living together off and on from that time forward until his death?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, at some point in time somebody told Mr. Brown--probably Mr. Cannon--that Tomi Rae was actually married to somebody else. Do you know anything about that?

A. I heard about it.

Q. What did you hear?

A. I heard she had another husband.

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1 Q. And did you ever speak with your father about
2 that?
3 A. No.
4 Q. Now, you testified earlier that you believe that
5 he had his marriage to Tomi Rae annulled. Was that your
6 testimony?
7 A. Is that what?
8 Q. I couldn't tell whether you were confused about
9 it. Did he discuss with you his attempts to have Tomi Rae
10 annul her--
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. --purported marriage?
13 A. Yes. Now, he did say that, yes. Yes, he did say
14 that to me on a phone conversation. Yes.
15 Q. Can you recollect what he said?
16 A. I'm going to have it annulled.
17 Q. I can't hear you.
18 MR. LEVENSON: Be serious, be serious.
19 A. I'm going to have it annulled.
20 Q. [Mr. Rosen] Meaning her marriage to the first
21 husband, Javed Ahmed?
22 A. No. Meaning his marriage to Tomi Rae.
23 Q. All right. Do you know whether or not he ever
24 actually did that?
25 A. No. I don't exactly know what was done and how it

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1 was done. He told me he was doing it. I took his word.
2 Q. Well, let me ask you this. Did he ever discuss
3 with you her getting an annulment from her purported first
4 husband, Javed Ahmed?
5 A. He did say he was going to have to leave her alone
6 or she was going to have to leave him alone or something. I
7 don't know. Something to that effect.
8 Q. Well, do you know whether or not he encouraged her
9 to get an annulment from the purported husband--
10 A. No. No, I don't.
11 Q. Well, hold on. Let me finish my question and then
12 everybody can jump up and down.
13 Do you know whether or not--did you ever have a
14 conversation with him about his efforts to secure an
15 annulment of the purported marriage between Tomi Rae and
16 Javed Ahmed? Did you ever have a conversation with him
17 about that?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Do you have any knowledge about her purported
20 marriage to Mr. Ahmed?
21 A. Yeah. What I've heard, yes.
22 Q. What did you hear?
23 A. That she had another husband. She was already
24 married.
25 Q. That's all you know about it?

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1 A. That's all I know.
2 Q. Okay. Now, with regard to what you witnessed at
3 the house, tell me the times you were at the house right
4 after your father's death. Do you recall the dates and
5 times?
6 A. Not all of them. No, I cannot.
7 Q. How many times were you there?
8 A. I can't--I don't know how many times.
9 Q. And did you witness any particular person removing
10 cash from the house?
11 A. No.
12 Q. Did you witness any particular person removing
13 certified checks from the house?
14 A. No.
15 Q. Did you witness any particular person taking any
16 jewelry from the house?
17 A. No.
18 Q. So while you were present nobody took any cash,
19 jewelry or checks?
20 A. No.
21 Q. To your knowledge.
22 A. No.
23 Q. Is that correct?
24 A. That's correct.
25 Q. The PI you keep referring to, what was his name?

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1 A. Gene Staulcup.
2 Q. Did he work for Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas for many
3 years?
4 A. I don't know who he worked for. I assume he was
5 hired by Mr. Cannon and Dallas at that point.
6 Q. Now, when you were present was anyone taking
7 photographs or videotaping anything?
8 A. On a couple of occasions, yes.
9 Q. Who was videotaping?
10 A. On which occasion?
11 Q. Any occasion. Any and all occasions.
12 A. Two gentlemen that Mr. Dallas hired and Mr. Cannon
13 hired the night after Dad passed. The family, we had a
14 camera that night. And then when we went back for Tomi Rae
15 to go through her things, those days when--there were about
16 four or five cameras going on.
17 Q. So there were--you said the night after, so he
18 died on Christmas Day. This would have been on December
19 26th?
20 A. Sixth, yes.
21 Q. At that time was a video being taken by someone
22 hired by Mr. Dallas and Mr. Cannon?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And then you and your family, meaning the
25 siblings, had a videographer?

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A. Yes.

Q. Who was that?

A. Well, we had our own camera. We was--we were kind of was taking--taking turns. We didn't hire anybody.

Q. So you had your own videocamera?

A. Yes.

Q. I know the time Tomi Rae was there that I was there and you were there. Any other videotape or photographs of the contents of the house that you are aware of?

A. September 17th.

Q. Well, what was that?

A. September 17th when me and my brothers and sisters and our lawyer, David Yount, went into the home along with Mr. Dallas, Mr. Bradley, three other men who were there from some auctioneer place, and security and Gene Staulcup. And David Washington.

MR. LEVENSON: And, Robert, this is Lewis. You got a copy of that; we gave you a copy of that.

MR. ROSEN: I know. I'm just trying to make sure I know what the whole universe of videotapes are. That's all.

Q. [Mr. Rosen] Now, the jewelry that you saw, do you know whether any of that belonged to Tomi Rae?

A. No. The jewelry I saw belonged to Adrienne.

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Q. And where is that jewelry now?

A. I do not know.

Q. Do you have possession of any of the jewelry?

A. No, I do not.

Q. Did you remove anything from the house?

A. Other than what I mentioned earlier.

Q. Do you believe that Little Man is your brother?

A. I do not know.

Q. You have called him your brother in public, have you not?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Bear with me. Did you get along with Tomi Rae when they were married and living together?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there any bad blood between the two of you?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did y'all ever have a fight about anything?

A. No.

Q. Do you know why she was treated the way she was at the funeral?

A. How was she treated?

Q. Well, who made the arrangements for the funeral?

A. It was a collective--a collective thing.

Q. Who was involved?

A. Well, a lot of people were involved. And which

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funeral--

Q. Specific names?

A. Which funeral were you talking about? There were three funerals.

Q. Well, let's start with the first one. Where was that?

A. Well, that--I guess that wasn't a funeral but that was a memorial at the Apollo in New York.

Q. That was at the Apollo?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was in charge of that? Who did the planning for that?

A. I don't know if there was any one person in charge but as--we collectively agreed to go there and do that memorial, me, my brothers, my sisters and Reverend Sharpton. We all got together along with Mr. Charlie Reid and discussed that, to do that in New York.

Q. Why was Tomi Rae excluded from that?

A. She was not excluded.

Q. From the planning?

A. We did not purposely exclude her.

Q. Is there a videotape of the proceedings at the Apollo?

A. There's probably public. CNN was there; a lot of different media outlets were there.

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Q. You don't have a videotape?

A. No, I do not.

Q. Was the Reverend Sharpton in charge of the proceedings?

A. At Apollo?

Q. Yes.

A. He handled a lot of business there, yes.

Q. And was he the prime speaker?

A. He spoke along with others.

Q. And after the Apollo what was the next event?

A. It wasn't an event. It was a private funeral.

Q. Where was that?

A. Carpentersville Baptist Church.

Q. And who was in charge of that?

A. Family.

Q. Once again, was Tomi Rae included?

A. Yes, she was included.

Q. I mean she was present. Was she included in the planning?

A. She did not be--she did not come and be a part of the planning. No, she didn't.

Q. Was she invited?

A. It wasn't an invitation sent out.

Q. But anyway, she was excluded. Would that be a fair statement?

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1 A. No, it would not.
2 Q. And then the third event, what was that?
3 A. It was a homegoing celebration when--
4 Q. That was in Augusta?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Is there a videotape of that?
7 A. There's probably plenty. It was open to the
8 public and the media.
9 Q. Do you have any videotape of that event?
10 A. Yes, I do.
11 Q. Do you have any videotape of the private funeral?
12 A. Yes, I do.
13 Q. Can you tell me where you bank?
14 MR. LEVENSON: Tell him the name of the bank.
15 A. Regions.
16 Q. [Mr. Rosen] What city?
17 A. Clearwater, South Carolina.
18 Q. Do you have a safe deposit box?
19 A. No, I do not.
20 Q. Do you have a safe?
21 A. No, I do not.
22 MR. ROSEN: Bear with me one second.
23 Q. [Mr. Rosen] Was Mr. Bobbit present on any
24 occasion that you were at the house right after your
25 father's death?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. How many--on how many occasions was he present?
3 A. At the house?
4 Q. Yeah. I'm concerned about what's happened to the
5 property, just like everybody else is. Was Mr. Bobbit
6 present when people were going through with the jewelry and
7 the cash and looking for things?
8 A. He was present on the 26th, December 26th, 2006.
9 Q. Do you know whether or not he would have any
10 knowledge of what happened to the property?
11 A. I don't know.
12 Q. Who else was present on the 26th?
13 MR. JACKSON: I think we've already answered all
14 this.
15 MR. ROSEN: Well, you may have. You may have.
16 I'll withdraw the question.
17 Q. [Mr. Rosen] Let me ask you this. What about the
18 furs in Augusta? Are you familiar with the fur coats?
19 A. Am I familiar with what?
20 Q. There's an issue about the fur coats that Toni Rae
21 believes belong to her but the children apparently think
22 belong to them. Do you have any knowledge of that?
23 A. No.
24 Q. Do you know anything about the fur coats?
25 A. I know he keep--yes, yes.

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1 Q. What do you know?
2 A. I know he kept them at a furrier. And what fur
3 coats are you talking about? His?
4 Q. There's a furrier in Augusta and there's valuable
5 coats there, apparently.
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Do you know who those coats belong to?
8 A. James Brown.
9 Q. And what information do you have about that?
10 A. That they belonged to James Brown.
11 Q. Well, how do you know that?
12 A. Because I know that they belonged to him. They're
13 his coats.
14 Q. Do you have any documentation or anything written
15 down about those coats?
16 A. No, I don't.
17 Q. Do you know whether or not your father made gifts
18 to his son James Brown II?
19 A. What kind of gifts?
20 Q. Well, jewelry, awards, things of value. I'm not
21 talking about plastic toys.
22 A. If he did what, again?
23 Q. Made gifts of valuable items such as awards or
24 jewelry?
25 A. I don't understand the question.

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1 MR. LEVENSON: The question is did--
2 Q. [Mr. Rosen] Are you aware of any gifts that your
3 father made to James Brown II?
4 A. No.
5 MR. ROSEN: That's all I have. Thank you very
6 much.
7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
8 MS. LEWIS: Would anybody like to take a break?
9 MR. LEVENSON: What is your estimate of time?
10 MS. LEWIS: Maybe five to ten minutes.
11 MR. LEVENSON: Then I would not like to take a
12 break.
13 MR. BELL: Do we have--
14 MR. LEVENSON: I defer to everybody else.
15 Whatever they want to do.
16 MR. BELL: Are there any other questions?
17 MS. LEWIS: I have a few.
18 MR. BELL: Why don't--I mean, Lewis, if it's not
19 many--Grace didn't have many the first time. Are you
20 going to have any more, Stan?
21 MR. JACKSON: No, I don't believe so.
22 MR. BELL: I don't have any more. John?
23 MR. HARLING: I've got one more and that's it.
24 MR. LEVENSON: My suggestion is let Ms. Lewis
25 complete her--start and complete her examination and

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any other followup questions and then we can conclude Ms. Thomas' deposition.

MR. BELL: Yeah.

MS. LEWIS: I just want to clarify your testimony.

REEXAMINATION

BY MS. LEWIS:

Q. You were talking about the wedding on December 14th, 2001, and you made the statement that they told people they were married and they lived together as husband and wife. Did you mean to say that that was from 2001 until he died? Was there a period when they told people they were husband and wife and then they didn't or--and your father did not say that anymore?

A. I don't--

Q. What time period are you talking about? Do you know?

A. Well, right after they were married.

Q. Okay. That's what you were talking about?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear him say that any other time right after--other than right after they were married?

A. A few. A few times here and there.

Q. But was it--did you hear him say that after he found out that she had been married--that she was married?

A. No. I clearly can't say.

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MR. ROSEN: I can't hear you. Would you repeat that.

THE WITNESS: No. I clearly cannot say.

Q. [Ms. Lewis] You did not hear him say that after he learned that she was married?

A. No. No, I didn't.

MR. LEVENSON: Do you mean, Ms. Lewis, that she was married to someone else is what--the form--

MS. LEWIS: To someone else.

MR. LEVENSON: --of your question--

MS. LEWIS: That's right.

MR. LEVENSON: --is misleading.

A. No, I don't.

Q. [Ms. Lewis] And then in saying that they lived together as husband and wife, did you--is there a time period when, in your opinion, they did not live together as husband and wife?

A. Yes. There were some times when she did not live there.

Q. What times were those?

A. She did not--I can't exactly say the time period. But there were times 'cause she had property, houses, in other places that she lived in.

Q. Turning to James Brown Enterprises, did you ever hear your dad say anything with respect to ownership of

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James Brown Enterprises?

A. Repeat the question.

Q. Did you ever hear him say anything about who owned James Brown Enterprises?

A. Him.

Q. What did he say?

A. Well, he just--James Brown Enterprises was his business. That's what my recollection of that is.

Q. Do you recall a conversation?

A. Not necessarily a conversation. I just knew that it was his business.

Q. You knew it but did he ever say anything about that to you?

A. Not directly. But, you know, James Brown Enterprises was his business. I mean that's just--

MR. LEVENSON: I guess the question is did he say--even though he didn't--

Q. [Ms. Lewis] Did he say anything to you?

MR. LEVENSON: --say anything to you, did he say anything to--

A. Not to my knowledge, no. Not to my knowledge, not that I can remember.

Q. [Ms. Lewis] Do you know if he said anything about James Brown Enterprises ownership to anybody else?

A. No, I don't know.

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Q. Turning to Colonel Lee and the document that he says was taken from behind a photo on the wall in the house.

A. Yes.

Q. How did that come up? How did that come to your knowledge?

A. I was out of town and I got a call that the personal representatives were in the home and he told--Colonel Lee later told me that that's when he seen something removed from the--when I say remove, I don't mean removed from the house. I meant removed from the--from where they took it from behind a photo.

Q. Oh, so he didn't say that it was taken out of the house?

A. I didn't--no, no. I said he said that they took it from behind the photo. Behind--that was hanging on the wall. That's what he saw, something come out of there. After that, they asked him to leave the room so he really don't know what happened after that. He was asked to leave the room and the door was shut and it was the private investigator and Mr. Dallas, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Bradley.

Q. So no one ever told you that they took whatever that was out of the house?

A. No. They assumed that it came out of the home.

Q. Now, did Colonel Lee call you up to give you this information?

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1 A. I don't know if he called me or I called him later
2 to get that information.

3 Q. To find out--someone had called you to say that
4 the personal representatives had been in the house?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And so you were calling Colonel Lee to see what
7 went on?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And in the course of that what--tell me exactly
10 what he did say.

11 A. I honestly can't remember exactly what he did say.
12 But he did tell me in general that they came into the home.
13 They were searching around the house looking behind photo
14 frames, looking behind several photo frames in the home.
15 And that when they went into this room that Dad kept a lot
16 of personal and very private documents because it stayed
17 locked all the time--when he went--when they went into that
18 room they did see something behind the photo wall. It was
19 removed. He doesn't know what it was 'cause at that point
20 he was asked to leave the room.

21 Q. What room was it?

22 A. Well, just--when you're going down the hallway
23 into the room, it's the first door on the right.

24 Q. And when you talk about the photo wall, is it just
25 a wall that had a number of photographs on it?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was he describing that they--that one of them
3 went to a photo, to something hanging on the wall, and
4 looked behind it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did he say which person--

7 A. No.

8 Q. --looked behind it?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And then is that all he told you?

11 A. That they were looking around the home. He
12 doesn't know what but they were looking around the home,
13 yes.

14 Q. Did he say anything else about finding something
15 behind the photograph?

16 A. No. At that time--actually, I can't remember.
17 Once I found out that the personal representatives was there
18 I called my brother Darrell so that he could come and sit
19 there as well to watch.

20 Q. Now, did you have other conversations with Colonel
21 Lee about this incident and finding something behind the
22 photograph hanging on the wall?

23 A. I may have. I can't remember. I've had, you
24 know, some conversations with him but I can't remember
25 exactly.

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1 Q. Well, just give me the gist of it.

2 A. Well, basically, that they were there, like I
3 said, and what he saw, what he witnessed. After that, of
4 course, he was asked to leave out of the room so he doesn't
5 know what happened after that.

6 Q. Sure. Did he ever tell you that he believed they
7 were stealing something?

8 A. No, he did not. He said that it did not look
9 good. It looked as if they were hiding something. But of
10 course he was asked to leave the room so he doesn't know.

11 Q. He doesn't know so he never said they were
12 stealing anything?

13 A. No, he didn't say they were stealing. He said
14 something--they found something and he was asked to leave
15 out of the room at that time.

16 Q. Now, when did he start working over where you
17 live?

18 A. The day--March the--March the 9th.

19 MR. JACKSON: Do we need to exclude the
20 non-parties?

21 A. Around about 9th/10th/11th, around about.

22 Q. [Ms. Lewis] And does he work there every day?

23 A. No.

24 Q. What are his hours?

25 A. There's no specific hours. They come--he does the

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1 schedule and he's there usually--he kind of works the
2 weekend overnight.

3 Q. Now, he signed an affidavit. How did that come
4 about?

5 A. He signed an affidavit?

6 MR. LEVENSON: The question is how did it come
7 about, if you know.

8 Q. [Ms. Lewis] How did that come about?

9 A. I don't know which affidavit. I don't know
10 exactly what.

11 Q. There was an affidavit that was tendered in
12 connection with your motion to remove the personal
13 representatives.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you know how that came about, who got it and
16 what happened? Have you ever--did you ever see that
17 affidavit?

18 A. Who got the affidavit.

19 Q. From him.

20 A. My lawyer.

21 Q. And which one?

22 A. David Yount.

23 Q. And how did he get the affidavit?

24 A. He met him at a bank, First Bank, on Walton Way,
25 got the affidavit and then it was notarized there.

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1 Q. Were you present?
2 A. No.
3 Q. How did you know that that's how it happened?
4 A. He asked me to have Colonel Lee to meet him.
5 Q. So you told Colonel Lee to go down there?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Did you tell him what he was going to be doing?
8 A. I told him that my lawyer had questions for him.
9 Q. Did he know he was going to be signing an
10 affidavit?
11 A. He--
12 MR. LEVENSON: You answer if you know.
13 A. I can't really remember.
14 Q. [Ms. Lewis] You just told him to go on down
15 there?
16 A. Yes. And meet--
17 Q. And meet--
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Meet your lawyer?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. Then when he came back did he tell you what
22 happened?
23 A. Yes. He did say that he did an affidavit.
24 Q. That he signed it?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Did he say anything else about it? Did he read
2 the affidavit or say anything else about it?
3 A. I can't remember, honestly. I mean I'm sure he
4 read it. I don't remember exactly what was in it or
5 anything what we talked about.
6 Q. You said that your father was a very generous man.
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. That's certainly very clear. What was his heart
9 on the topic of education for poor people, poor children?
10 A. He wanted to be able to assist poor children in
11 getting an education.
12 Q. What would he say to you about it?
13 A. What would he say or did he say? I don't--
14 Q. What would he say about that topic?
15 A. I mean I can just speculate that--
16 Q. I just want you to--what he would share with you
17 about his--
18 A. He didn't have an education.
19 Q. --feelings?
20 A. There are things that he didn't--there are things
21 that he didn't have when he was young that he wanted to make
22 sure that other children had.
23 MS. LEWIS: Would you like a few moments?
24 THE WITNESS: I'm fine. I'm fine, thank you.
25 Q. [Ms. Lewis] I see the emotion that this area

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1 brings out in you. When you see the life that your father
2 had and education, and I'm assuming that this was a topic
3 that was a deep hurt in his own life and that's why you cry
4 for him now.
5 A. Yes. Because I know it's something that he
6 wanted. And I know it's something that he wanted 'cause he
7 didn't have that opportunity. That's why he had turkey
8 giveaways every year to bless those who couldn't eat and toy
9 giveaways to help those children who were in need. And he
10 was a giver. The last thing he did was giving toys away to
11 children. And other than my family, making sure my family
12 was safe and secure, it's my wish that he gets those
13 children blessed that he wanted to get blessed.
14 Q. Because he knew the education would be the
15 greatest blessing of all?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. And he knew that for his own family, the education
18 that he would provide would be the greatest blessing of all?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. The generations that would come?
21 A. Yes. He wanted to do something that he felt no
22 other black man could do: make sure his children,
23 grandchildren, great-grandchildren--just the Brown lineage
24 would be educated.
25 Q. And that they would have doors opened?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. Did he ever talk about that?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. What did he say about education opening doors?
5 A. Well, he wrote songs about it. He talked about it
6 all the time and how important education was and that that
7 was the freedom that a person would have being educated.
8 Q. And I can see from what you're saying today that
9 you wholeheartedly support what he wants to do.
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. Who--but you've brought this motion asking that
12 the men who surrounded him be removed?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. Who would you prefer would carry out these wishes?
15 A. I can't answer that right now. I really don't
16 know.
17 Q. Just thinking out loud, who do you think would be
18 best to carry out these wishes?
19 A. Other than me and my brothers and sisters, I don't
20 know.
21 Q. Would that be your preference that the brothers
22 and sisters carry it out?
23 A. I know that--I know that we want what Dad wanted.
24 And we know that these children can be blessed and that's
25 who--you know, that's who should be blessed, people who

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1 cannot afford it instead of--instead of--I don't want to get
2 personal with that, but.

3 Q. Do you want to say lawyers?

4 A. I just--personal representatives, lawyers,
5 anybody. If you worked with my dad, if you were with my
6 dad, you know his--you know how he felt and--

7 Q. And how was that? How did he feel about that?

8 A. I just don't think that--I don't think that it
9 would have happened had me and my brothers and sisters had
10 not did what we did. I don't think that these children
11 would be blessed and I say that because--just for example, I
12 mean there's a turkey giveaway that we're planning. There's
13 a toy giveaway that we're planning and it's just me and my
14 brothers and sisters making sure that happens. No one else
15 is making sure that that happens.

16 Q. So that that tradition continues?

17 A. Yes. And we're not rich people. You know, God
18 has blessed us and so did the Godfather but there are things
19 that I don't think are important to a lot of people that
20 were associated with him that were important to him.

21 Q. Such as what?

22 A. Such as giving to those in need instead of to
23 yourself.

24 Q. So has the family discussed how--what would be the
25 best way to carry out your father's wish and desire?

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1 A. The first, housecleaning. To remove these three
2 people who we do not believe will do that wholeheartedly.
3 And two, to move forward at that point.

4 Q. With who handling the trust or who handling the
5 estate?

6 A. We haven't actually discussed that in detail.

7 Q. What are the thoughts on it?

8 A. Again, it's hard to trust outside of our own
9 lineage. So many things have come out to show that nobody
10 is trustworthy who is in position.

11 Q. Are these what you're referring to anything other
12 than what you've told us today?

13 A. I'm sorry?

14 Q. When you say so many things have come out to show
15 that nobody is trustworthy, is there anything about
16 untrustworthiness that you haven't already told us today?
17 Is there something else that we need to know?

18 MR. LEVENSON: Other than what you've discussed.

19 Q. [Ms. Lewis] Other than what you've already told
20 us today?

21 MR. LEVENSON: And other than what you've
22 discussed with me.

23 A. Well, I mean, for example, my grandfather's house
24 was put on the market and that's--each one of my brothers
25 and sisters, we've all lived in that home at some point in

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1 time and it's sentimental to us and one day could be part of
2 a James Brown historical tour here in Augusta. Our views
3 are different than those who are not his family. And if
4 somebody wants to go sell my granddaddy's home where we were
5 raised up, to me they don't care. They don't care about our
6 heritage. That's our heritage.

7 Q. And when you think about the museum that your
8 father had talked about of his homeplace, what do you
9 envision in that museum that you would want the world to
10 see?

11 A. What James Brown the man was about. Everybody's
12 seen his entertainment skills but what James Brown was
13 about.

14 Q. And so what would you see being in that house to
15 show the world what James Brown--

16 A. Oh, wow.

17 Q. --was about? What would you want in there? When
18 you opened the doors to something of a Graceland, what would
19 you want them to see that would be there?

20 A. It's hard to exactly say what because there's so
21 many different facets to Dad. There's so many different
22 facets to him. But I just see coming down that driveway and
23 actually feeling the peacefulness that's there. Again,
24 that's our heritage because that was my home. I lived
25 there.

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1 Q. Would you want them to see all the costumes?
2 Would you want--

3 A. Maybe not all but I would want--we would want them
4 to know who James Brown was, not just from an entertainment
5 perspective but who he really was as a giver, as a
6 philanthropist, a man who took one song, I'm Black and I'm
7 Proud, and showed freedom to a whole world of colored
8 people.

9 Q. So would you want the museum to have his costumes
10 and the shoes that he used in his entertainment business?

11 A. That and--yes. That included, yes.

12 Q. Right. And you would want it to have the Grammy
13 awards, all the awards that he received in his entertainment
14 business? Would you want all of the--

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. --original manuscripts of his music to be in that
17 museum?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would you want all of his guitars and other
20 musical instruments to be in that museum?

21 A. Yes. And--and--

22 Q. Would you want--

23 A. And when you say all, maybe not everything 'cause
24 he had so much.

25 Q. Yes.

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1 A. And there's so many other ways that his legacy can
2 be shown. Not just at his home but all over the world.

3 Q. So what other things? Tell me that his
4 legacy--tell me how his legacy could be shown.

5 A. Education as we said was very important to him.
6 Some interactive education facility there where children
7 could come and maybe record a song or something or a little
8 James Brown studio. I mean there's so many--I don't want to
9 give everybody my ideas but there's so many things that
10 we've talked about. A school, you know, that could be
11 constructed here and, you know, when you say things in
12 there, those are material things. But, you know, there are
13 audiotape/videotape of him talking about black power
14 and--and black people owning businesses and land and, you
15 know, those things. Those are historical moments in time
16 and they teach futures to come. They teach them about where
17 he come from and what he believed in and what black people
18 were about. He--those things can be displayed in a way--

19 Q. That they're--

20 A. Exhibited in a way--

21 Q. As an inspiration?

22 A. --as an inspiration, as an educational piece--

23 Q. Where are--

24 A. --to show how his arms reached across borders and
25 touched people of other cultures. How he was world

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1 they had over the years, pictures or whatever. Those were
2 his things and they should be in a way where the world could
3 see them, maybe not just in Augusta but the world at large
4 could see pieces of James Brown.

5 Q. What do you want to see the trust doing right now?

6 A. Without the personal representatives there?

7 Q. Let's just say what do you want to see the trust
8 to be doing right now?

9 A. Providing the educational money for his
10 grandchildren and a criteria put in place for needy children
11 because there was no criteria put in place on this trust. A
12 criteria to find out who would be eligible for money.

13 Q. And then what do you envision the income would be
14 available to--let's say to do it now? Is there income
15 available? Do you know?

16 A. There's income available.

17 Q. And where is it?

18 A. I don't know where it's going.

19 Q. Where does the income come from that would--

20 A. So many different sources I can't say one thing.
21 There are so many different sources.

22 Q. Just kind of give me some of them.

23 A. There's royalties. There's--where he did movies.
24 He did movies, television shows; there's just so much. A
25 James Brown doll. There's just so many different things.

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1 ambassador for children's charities and all of these things
2 that he was.

3 Q. And where are those things? Where are the
4 videotapes? Where are they located?

5 A. I honestly don't know where everything is. I
6 honestly don't know where everything is 'cause there's so
7 many things. There's so many things.

8 Q. And in that house you would want the Grammy
9 awards; right?

10 A. Yes. His awards.

11 Q. You'd want the awards hanging on the wall. You
12 want the pictures of your father with every president in his
13 lifetime; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What are the things that the family would like to
16 take out of the house as personal effects?

17 A. I don't know. We haven't sat down and discussed
18 that. We haven't looked at that in terms of dividing up or
19 anything. We haven't discussed that.

20 Q. Well, let's just say from your point of view.
21 What would you like to take away in the way of personal
22 effects?

23 A. It's hard. I can't answer that, really. I can't
24 do that. I have things that my dad gave me that are
25 personal to me. I have gifts that people have given me that

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1 Q. All of which should be flowing into the trust?

2 A. Maybe not all. I don't know exactly what should
3 go into the trust.

4 MR. LEVENSON: Excuse me. Hold on a second.

5 That's a legal question. If you know--

6 MS. LEWIS: No. I'm not asking a legal question.
7 I'm just asking--

8 MR. LEVENSON: Well, yes, you are. You're asking
9 her if assets that don't belong legally to the trust
10 should go to the trust. That's a legal question.

11 MS. LEWIS: Let me just rephrase it. I'm asking--

12 MR. LEVENSON: So if you know--

13 MS. LEWIS: I've asked--

14 MR. LEVENSON: If you know, you can answer it.

15 Q. [Ms. Lewis] Here's what I'm asking. I've asked
16 what you would like to see done with the trust money and
17 you've talked about it. And I'm asking what income you
18 would like to see--what income you would like to see flowing
19 into that trust to carry out his passion.

20 A. I don't know. I can't give you a figure 'cause I
21 don't know what the appropriate figure would be.

22 Q. But do you see--would you want to see the
23 royalties flowing into the trust?

24 A. I would like to see monies flowing into the trust.
25 I don't know if it should be royalties; I don't know what it

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1 should be. I don't know where the income should come from.

2 I can't say that right now because of the issues at hand.

3 Q. But let's just say your preference. What would
4 you like to see? Would you like to see that money, that
5 royalties, were flowing into the trust?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Rather than the estate?

8 A. Yes. Well, into the trust to take care of what
9 the needs would be. But before that I would like to see the
10 trustees removed.

11 MS. LEWIS: I think that's all I have. Thank you.

12 MR. JACKSON: I have some more as a result of all
13 this.

14 MR. RICHTER: Yeah. Lewis, I have some more
15 questions too. So do you want to take a break or do
16 you want to keep going?

17 MS. LEWIS: I want to take a break.

18 MR. LEVENSON: We'll break.

19 MR. BELL: Yeah.

20 [Recess, 12:50 p.m. to 2:05 p.m.]

21 [Ms. Adele Pope and Mr. Robert Buchanan are
22 present at the recommencement of the deposition.]

23 REEXAMINATION

24 BY MR. JACKSON:

25 Q. Ms. Thomas, I don't want to rehash everything

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1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Can you refer to me what provision in the trust
3 you're referring to up to 50 percent?

4 A. As trustees that's what was drawn up in the trust
5 for them to receive. I guess administrative fees.

6 MR. LEVENSON: The question is can you refer to a
7 specific provision.

8 THE WITNESS: I don't--

9 MR. LEVENSON: Well, if you know a specific
10 provision.

11 A. That up to 50 percent is all I can say.

12 Q. [Mr Jackson] And did you get that from reading
13 the instrument or did you get that from some other source
14 that--

15 A. That was told to me by Mr. Cannon and Mr. Dallas
16 when they was at my home.

17 Q. Told to you. What did they tell you?

18 A. That that's how it was set up. They would receive
19 some type of administrative fee of up to 50 percent.

20 Q. And that was in December?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Any other time? And was it both of them or one of
23 them?

24 A. I don't remember.

25 [Mr. Robert Rosen rejoins the deposition

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1 you've already testified to so if you wouldn't mind, I'm
2 going to ask you maybe two or three questions based on your
3 testimony to--previously before lunch. And all I want to
4 know is if you--if there are any other facts that you have
5 not already testified to that support some of your
6 statements.

7 First of all, you said we do not believe that the
8 personal representatives or trustees will fulfill the wishes
9 of your father James Brown. Without stating everything else
10 you've already testified to, do you have any other
11 additional facts that you haven't testified to that supports
12 that statement?

13 A. No, no. Other than the fact that--well, yes.
14 There is one other thing 'cause we don't agree that--of the
15 way it was set up in terms of what their compensation should
16 be. the personal trustees.

17 Q. The trustees. And can you be specific in that
18 regard?

19 A. It was set up for them to receive up to 50
20 percent.

21 Q. Up to 50 percent?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Where--

24 A. In this trust.

25 Q. In this trust?

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1 telephonically.]

2 MR. ROSEN: Hey, this is Robert Rosen. Are y'all
3 in the middle of this thing?

4 MR. BELL: Yeah. We've started back.

5 MR. ROSEN: All right. Thank you.

6 Q. [Mr. Jackson] The trust instrument, if it said
7 reasonable compensation, is that what you recall it saying?
8 Reasonable compensation?

9 A. I can't exactly remember but I remember that
10 figure was told to me of 50 percent.

11 Q. Now, is--you also said, quote, nobody is
12 trustworthy. Is there any other facts concerning the people
13 administrating this estate that you haven't already
14 testified to, or the trust, that substantiate that nobody is
15 trustworthy other than what you've already testified to?

16 A. Not to my recollection, no.

17 MR. JACKSON: That's all I have. Thank you.

18 MR. LEVENSON: Anyone else have any questions of
19 Deanna Brown Thomas? Robert, do you have any other
20 questions?

21 MR. RICHTER: I'll follow up based on those recent
22 questions.

23 REEXAMINATION

24 BY MR. RICHTER:

25 Q. Do I understand your testimony to be that your

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1 father did not repose trust in Mr. Cannon?

2 A. I'm sorry. Can you repeat that, please.

3 Q. Is it your testimony that your father did not
4 repose trust in Mr. Cannon?

5 A. I wasn't asked that question. I never--

6 Q. I'll ask you that question now. Did your father
7 repose trust in Mr. Cannon?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. But your father told you that he trusted no one?

10 A. That was--

11 Q. Is that true or not?

12 A. Yes. He was that type of person.

13 MR. RICHTER: That's all I have.

14 MR. ROSEN: I've got a couple of followup
15 questions. If you could speak up, I'd really
16 appreciate it.

17 MS. LEWIS: Who is that, please?

18 MR. LEVENSON: It's Robert Rosen.

19 REEXAMINATION

20 BY MR. ROSEN:

21 Q. You were asked a series of questions about whether
22 or not James Brown and Tomi Rae Brown held themselves out to
23 be husband and wife. Do you recall those questions?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And someone asked you after I examined you whether

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1 Q. (Mr. Rosen) You can't be sure of it? He didn't
2 introduce her as his wife at every occasion that they
3 appeared together?

4 A. No, he did not.

5 Q. Do you recall occasions when he did introduce her
6 as his wife?

7 A. When he did or didn't?

8 Q. That he did introduce her as his wife. He
9 continued to say she was his wife up until his death, did he
10 not?

11 A. Not all the time in a public--no.

12 Q. Well, can you remember a public event when he said
13 he wasn't married to her?

14 A. He didn't--he may not have said he was not, but he
15 didn't refer to her as his wife.

16 Q. Well, are you aware of his autobiography, his
17 memoir, James Brown: I Feel Good?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Have you read it?

20 A. Not completely.

21 Q. Well, if I told you that he refers to Tomi Rae as
22 his wife in 2005 in his book and the captions of the
23 photographs show them as James Brown with his wife, would
24 that refresh your recollection?

25 A. No.

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1 your testimony only related to the year 2001; do you
2 remember that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Well, let me clarify that. You are aware that Mr.
5 Brown and Tomi Rae Brown continued to reside together off
6 and on until his death; correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And they continued to hold themselves out as
9 husband and wife until his death in 2006; is that correct?

10 MR. HARLING: Object to the form.

11 A. I don't know.

12 Q. (Mr. Rosen) Well, you know that after he found
13 out about her purported marriage to Mr. Javed Ahmed, that
14 was in 2003. Are you aware of that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And after that they continued to live together in
17 2014, did they not?

18 A. Off and on, yes.

19 Q. Right. And they continued to live together in
20 2005, did they not?

21 A. Off and on.

22 Q. And they continued to represent to the public that
23 they were husband and wife, did they not?

24 MR. HARLING: Object to the form.

25 A. I can't be sure of that.

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1 MR. ROSEN: Thank you very much.

2 MR. HARLING: Ms. Thomas, this is Jonathan Harling
3 again. I have just briefly a few more questions for
4 you.

5 REEXAMINATION

6 BY MR. HARLING:

7 Q. After your father, Mr. Brown, discovered that Tomi
8 Rae was married to Javed Ahmed, after he learned that--

9 MR. ROSEN: Whomever is speaking, can you speak
10 up? I cannot hear you.

11 Q. (Mr. Harling) After Mr. Brown learned that--

12 MR. BELL: John, sit over here.

13 MR. HARLING: Yeah. Let me switch.

14 Q. (Mr. Harling) After your father learned that Tomi
15 Rae was married to Javed Ahmed did he participate in a
16 subsequent marriage ceremony with Tomi Rae?

17 A. After, no. No.

18 Q. And after he discovered that she was married to
19 Javid Ahmed did Mr. Brown ever state that they were not
20 married?

21 A. He told me he was getting an annulment. He said
22 that to me on the phone.

23 Q. And is that the extent of your knowledge
24 regarding--

25 A. Yes.

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Q. --that issue?

A. Yes.

MR. HARLING: Thank you. That's all I had.

MR. LEVENSON: We'll reserve signature on that.

[Deposition concludes at 2:15 p.m.]

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I hereby certify that the foregoing deposition was reported as stated in the caption by the method of Stenomask and the questions and the answers thereto were reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; that the foregoing pages numbered 5 through 165 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the evidence given on October 31st, 2007, by the witness, DEANNA BROWN THOMAS, and signature was reserved.

I further certify that I am not kin or counsel to the parties in the case and I am not in the regular employ of counsel of said parties.

I further certify that I have no contract with any of the parties or their counsel. The court reporting charges are the usual and customary charges for services within the industry and are available upon request by either party. No financial or services discount has been or will be given to any party named in this litigation.

This the 11th day of November, 2007.

GINA L. SMITH, CCR, CVR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
GEORGIA CERTIFICATE # B-2151

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DONSBACH & KING, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

John A. Donsbach (AL, GA, SC)
J. Brian King (DC, GA, SC)
Judith M. Becker (GA)

Street Address:

504 Blackburn Drive
Augusta, GA 30907

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 212139
Martinez, GA 30917-2139

Of Counsel:

David K. Anderson, P.C. (GA)

www.donsbachking.com

Telephone (706) 650-8750

January 11, 2016

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

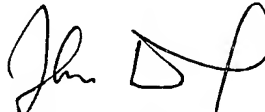
The Honorable Doyet A. Early, III
P.O. Box 90
Bamberg, SC 29003

Re: In Re: The Estate of James Brown, a/k/a James Joseph Brown
Case No. 2008-CP-02-1647
C/M No.: 2497/1

Dear Judge Early:

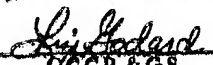
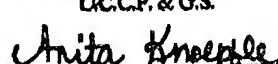
Enclosed please find the deposition of Deanna Brown Thomas dated October 31, 2007 for filing ahead of Thursday's hearing. I have also forwarded a copy to the clerk for filing and returning a time-stamped copy to me. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Thank you.

Sincerely,


John A. Donsbach

JAD/mks
Enclosure

cc: William J. Barr, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
Robert N. Rosen, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
John F. Beach, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
Matthew D. Bodman, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
A. Peter Shahid, Jr., Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
David B. Bell, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
Louis Levenson, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
Scott Keniley, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
J. David Black, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
T. Heyward Carter, Jr., Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
James Mixon Griffin, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)
C. Havird Jones, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)

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L.J. Stedard
D.C.P. & G.S.

Anita Knepper
Deputy Clerk

S. Alan Medlin, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)

David L. Michel, Esq. (w/ encl.) (via email)

Ms. Liz Godard (w/ encl.) (via email and U.S. mail) ✓